Hamas 'will not hinder self-rule'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Islamic Resistance Movement Harnes, an opponent of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, will not obstruct Palestinian self-rule in the nisation (PLO) peace deal, will not obstruct Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, a spokesman said on Tuesday. "We will not participate in autonomy. But we will not put any hindrance for the implementation of autonomy." Mahmoud Al Zahhar said in an interview with Israel Radio. "We are going to give a very big chance for peace. But our assessment was and still is that this is not the proper way to achieve our basic demands," he said. Itrael and the PLO have been on guard against possible attempts by Hamas to wreck their September peace deal during the hundover by the Israeli army to Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip and West Bask, town of Jericho.



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.Volume 18 Number 5580

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1994, SHAWWAL 24, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 File

King, Arafat review peace talks, coordination and police deployment

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

iltogeth AMMAN — His Majesty King ier, E Hussein and Palestinian leader denific Yasser Arafat on Tuesday held o shor talks expected to have centred lattan; on details of the Palestine Lireferns beratioo Organisation's (PLO) aign r negotiations with Israel and eral it issues related to the deployment of Palestinian police in Mr. the Gaza Strip and Jericho. other . . Mr. Arafat, chairman of the ed we PLO, arrived here Tuesday pareir afternoon on a visit described poker by his aide Yasser Abed Rab-Six bo as aimed at "Jordanian-

ning; the deployment of the police gains: Mr. Arafat's visit here came ans a amid intense negotiations in ed on Cairo, Egypt, between PLO mede and Israeli oegotiators to thrasb out details of imian : plemeoting the Sept. 13 accord is it on Palestinian self-rule in the the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The visit was also seen as gion; simed at fulfilling a promise mor Mr. Arafat bas made to keep Jordan abreast of all developments in the Israeli-PLO negodara tiations.

Senior PLO officials said Mr. Arafat was expected to brief the King on details of the. Cairo negotiations and present. a plan of how the PLO in-tended to go about deploying

is in Palestice Liberation Army transferring civil authorities

ance party for a Palestinian

Jordan, PLO stress importance of joint action on key issues

DURING HIS talks with Mr. Arafat, the King reiterated Jordan's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and its efforts to alleviate the suffering of the people living in the occupied territories, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported

late Tuesday.

It said Mr. Arafat emphasised the depth of the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians and voiced the Palestinian leadership's appreciation for the consistent Jordanian support

for the Palestinian people.

The two sides emphasised the importance of joint action in all issues of common interests, especially in the peace process and the obstacles facing it. They also emphasised the necessity for cooperation and coordination in efforts to address the problem

The two sides also discussed activating the work of joint committees, mainly the Jerusalem committee, the administrative committee and the economic committee.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Advisor Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Attending on the Palestinian side were PLO Executive Committee members Yasser Abed Rabbo and Yasser Amr, Palestine National Council Acting Speaker Salim Zanoum, Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim and head of Palestinian negotiating team Faisal Husseini.

(PLA) trained as police officers are waiting in Jordan for moving orders into the Gaza Strip and Jericho: About 1,500 of them are expected to be moved into the distribled terri-tories immediately after Israel and the PLO reach an agree-

and internal security responsi-bilities to the police force, PLA officials say. The PLO soldiers were trained in police skills at sorda-rilar facilities.

Others of the expected

8,500-10,000 strong force were

(Continued on page 5)

occupied

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Soldiers shot and wounded 12 Palestinians during protests in Jericho while Israeli police

the talks, he answered: "They (the Israelis) are not serious. "Of course there are differences," he added. "But there are no answers (from the Israelis) on starting the opera-

zhak Rabin said Tuesday that more time probably was needed for an agreement.

would be a hocus-pocus and, in two or three days everything could be completed, he was simply mistakeo and isn't familiar with the reality," Mr. Rabin told Israel's army radio.

but the trip was delayed by haggling on the overall security agreement.

But Tuesday, chief Israeli delegate Major General Amnon Shahak told repor-ters... "the first officers of the Palestinian police will be enter-

ing the day after tomorrow." In separate meetings with

but gave no details. Asked when the negotiations will be concluded, Gen. Shahak predicted they "will continue... next week until finished." This week's talks

Speaking at the Cairo Hotel where the PLO and Israelis are

territories

were moving out to prepare for a handover to Palestinians.

The five Palestinians, two of them shot in the head, were among nine injured by troops on Tuesday.

Arab schoolchildren had

been tossing stones and bottles over the fence of Jericho police over the gence of Sericia police compound. Troops responded by driving through the main square at high speed, hurling percession grenades and firing in the air. In Hebron in the occupied

West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinian students during clashes. In the occupied Gaza Strip three people, including an eight-year-old girl, were in-lared in Jabalya refugee camp.

Also in Hebron, troops surty, trapping some 500 students and staff for three hours. University officials said soldiers for the first time chased students into the campus before lifting

Israel, after 27 years of occupation, speeded up preparations this week for a pullout from the Gaza Strip and an enclave around Jericho in the West Bank under a peace deal signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

in September. First units of a Palestinian police force called for under the deal are to arrive soon. As a sweetner, more than 40 Palestinians exiled by Israel were allowed to return on

Tuesday. But Palestinian youths who first greeted the Sentember accord with horn-tooting and palm branches - showed their impatience at its delayed implementation on Tuesday, hurling bottles and rocks into the police station's sunbaked

courtyard. Parting apparently will not be sweet, especially in the wake of the massacre by o Jewish settler of dozens of Palestinians in a Hebron mosque in February.



DEMAND FOR ACTION: A plainciothes policecommander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia. Un-Sarajevo residence of General Michael Rose, intervention in Gorazde (see page 8) (AFP photo)

armed demonstrators were calling for U.N.

Majali: Tackling problems of bureaucracy is a top priority

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday that fighting corruption aod inefficiency in the bureaucracy was one of his government's top priorities and his plans for decentralisation and improving the income of public sector employees canpay dividends in the long run. He acknowledged that the

buteaucracy suffers from "bribery and incompetence" but be said that these were primarily caused by "low salaries and the different policies over the years." Ever since Dr. Majali

assumed his post as head of

government, analysts and politicians have credited his person with an enthusiasm for administrative reform.

Addressing chief editors and columnists of daily newspapers, Dr. Majali said that his government was concerned with maintaining security and stability in the Kingdom and that securing this target reprove the lot of lower-income Jordanians in a manner that would also uproot corruption. How can you have general

security when the government's administrative body is not clean?" the prime minister said, adding that one of the main components of having a "clean" public sector is by en-suring that employees have decent salaries. "I know that that of the

300,000 public sector employees around 250,000 earn about or ooder JD 150 a month," Dr. Majali said.

"How can this person who earns this little fight off a bribe in the thousands?" the prime minister said, adding that the "small employee has one of two choices: Either accept the bribe or become nasty and use what little he has in antagonising the citizee who needs a public service from him." "My government wants to

solve this problem," Dr. Majali emphasised. This policy of improving

standards of lower-income

proposed amendments to the Elections Law and redrawing administrative districts in the Kingdom in a manner that would ensure decentralisation

of aothority.

The premier said that be personally believed that decentralisation could only come with strengthening the powers of districts and governorates in a manner that would leave the central government in Amman with the role of "guidance and

strategy making."
"I believe in decentralisation." the premier said. "A mechanism would be created whereby a citizen from the urban areas does not need to travel to Amman to solve a problem in his district."

Part of the reason why so many citizens move from the urban areas to Amman is because the capital is where almost all decisions are made,' the premier explained, adding that if the situation on the

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan hopes for solution to Aqaba siege in few days

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday briefed the press on the adverse effects on Jordan resulting from the continuing siege on Aqaba and Jordan's efforts to find a solution to this

Addressing an aodience of ing held at bis office, Dr. Majali said that Jordan had incurred huge losses as a result of the contioued blockade.

Dr. Majali referred to His Majesty King Hussein's recent statements that the harassment of Jordan-bound shipping contradicts with the historic role the Kingdom is playing towards achieving security and stability in the region and its participation in the efforts to safeguard buman rights and

dignity.

Dr. Majali said Jordan refuses the idea of the presence of a naval vessel in the Agaba port to inspect the cargo.

Jordan has demanded that an international, nentral and non-political party conduct the inspection of cargo unloaded by ships at Anaba and to report its findings to the United Nations, the prime minister

He said a new decision in this matter was expected in the coming few days and probably during a visit to Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christoph

Dr. Majali described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as unique and brotherly. He said that Jordan had always supported and would continue to support the Palestinian people until they regaio their rights on their national soil. The prime minister stressed the importance of Jordanian-

was of special importance to Muslims and Christians and stressed that "there will be no real peace without Jerusalem." Dr. Maiali stressed the im-

portant role media can play at

the political, economic and so-

Palestinian coordination. Dr. Maiali said Jerusalem

tried so far.
"With the introduction of the sales tax, we believe that we would gain the beoefit of making accurate assessments of income," he said.
"With the sales tax, we

Abdul Salam Majali

llel to Jordan's policy.

cial levels and called on the

media to adopt a course para-

Dr. Majali said media

should safeguard the higher

national interest and observe

accuracy in its coverage of

eveots. The media should ce-

ment confidence between offi-

cials and citizens, the prime

He voiced the government's

readiness to provide all the information that journalists

need for their news coverage.

all ministries to assign one offi-

cial from each ministry to re-

spond to any queries or ques-

The prime minister said the

country lacks a very efficient

system for assessing income

although several methods were

tions raised by media.

The prime minister called on

would be taking from the wealthy to help the poor through a cumber of methods including widening the base of income tax exemptions for the limited income groups," he said.

Present at the meeting was

Information Mioister Jawad Anani and Prime Ministry offi-

Expellees return home, raising hopes for others left behind

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Twenty-six Palestinian expellees crossed the King Hussein Bridge on Tuesday to return to their homes in the occupied West Bank after years of exile. They were seen off from

Amman by some 150 people who turned up outside the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission. Horns blared and Palestinian flags flew as expellees and their families boarded two buses and headed for the King

Hussein Bridge.

Many of the 1,800 expellees still awaiting word that they too can return to their homeland stood outside the PLO mission headquarters in Jabal Amman to bid farewell to their compatriots and asking PLO leaders about their fate. "The event of today is the first in the return of all deportees to their homeland," PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo told reporters at the

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Tayyeb Abdul Rahim said: "Another list will be made public, possibly next week." PLO insiders say another list of 50 expellees is under study by the Israeli authorities.

"Last year they allowed 50 to return and now 46. If keep going like this will all be back in several hundred years," lamented Dr. Alfred Tobassi, a Ramallah deportee waiting to see his name on a list of would-be returnees.

Those returning to the occupied territories are a mixture of young politically active Fateh

supporters who were expelled after the beginning of the 1987 uprising and older men who Israel expelled after it occupied the West Bank in 1967. Three senior confidants of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat were demied entry into the occupied territories at the last minnte because they were con-

leadership. But among those that entered the occupied West Bank from Jordan were the daughter of Khalil Al Wazir, the martyred PLO leader who directed intifada activities from his exile in Tunis. Mr. Wazir was killed by an Israeli hit squad in front of his wife io his Tunis home in

sidered too close to the PLO

Hanan Al Wazir, wife of returnee Ahmad Deck. 34.

(Continued on page 5)



Relatives and friends gathered in front of the . Palestinian embassy in Amman on Tuesday to

bid farewell to Palestinian expeliees returning bome (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Gulf oil slick recedes, but threat is not over

DUBAI (R) — Winds pushed a buge oil slick from a tanker collision further away from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday but authorities said the spreading spill continued to pose a threat to their scenic Arabian Sea coastline. "The slick is travelliog furth-

er to the opeo sea ... there is no additional threat today to the beaches unless the weather changes drastically," said an official of a firm fighting the slick of 14,000 tonnes of crude

Officials blame the owners of the tankers for the polintion disaster, which has killed marine life along the previously oospoiled coastline and turned sandy beaches a greasy

Captaio Musa Murad, deputy general manager of Fujairah port, was quoted in local newspapers as saying that if the ship owners had moved fast enough our beaches would not have been so hadly damaged."
"So far we bave left ever-

thing to the ship owners, but their efforts are not enough ... if they cannot do the job, we will ask others to take up the

He said that once investigations were complete into the cause of Wednesday night's collision between the Panamaregistered supertanker seki and the UAE-owned tanker Baynunah, legal action would be taken for compensation.

The Seki was carrying 270,000 tonnes of Iranian light crude oil to Japan when the collision ruptured one of its taoks. The 57.211-tonne Baynunah was in ballast. No one was burt.

So far a greek-owned com-pany, Fairdeal, has battled the slick alone at sea. Oman has sent a skimmer and Iran and Japan bave offered to help to clear the slick, which experts say is the largest in the area to result from a tanker collision. An Iranian official said Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh offered the UAE

was still awaiting a response. Michael Sarros of Fairdeal, which is fighting the spill with skimmers and oil storage ships, said only 10 per cent of the original 15,900 tonnes spilled had been recovered. The remaining 14,000 tonnes

help in combating the slick and

continue to threaten beaches and marine life north of the UAE's Arabian Sea ports of Fujairah and Khor Fakkan. He said large patches of oil were about 32 kilometres off the shore is some areas. The oil was 12 kilometres offshore and winds and currents were

pushing it out to sea. He said cleaning the beaches was expected to start in the next two days," wheo we are sure no more oil will hit the

"Huge quantities of oil are iovolved. The sand has to be removed and rocks cleaned, which is a long process," he

He said the oil was polluting 40 kilometres of coastline. Local newspapers gooted officials in Fujairah as saying fishermen had lost earnings of about three million dirhams (\$800,000) in the past five

Experts say the damage could bave-been far worse if the Seki's cargo had been heavy crude, like much of Gulf oil production.

The Baymunah's owner, the Abo Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). provided eqinpment and expertise and the Seki's owners had received an offer of help from Japan,

ager Palestinian coordination" on

nian negotiators lost patience with the Israelis at talks in . Cairo on Tuesday on Palesti-The hian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and one of them said the discussions had hit snags. "Things are getting more complicated," said Mamdouh Nofal, one of the Palestiman commanders meant to go into Chiza and Jericho as an adv-

police force. They are procrastinating and drawing things out ... so far the Israelis have not given us any fixed and firm dates (for Išraeli withdrawal)," added Major-General Nasri Yousef, the newly appointed commanther of the police force.

Mr. Nofal complained that the Israelis were linking Israeli withdrawal and the deployment of the Palestinian police with the two sides signing an agreement on all the details of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. So far the Israeli side has not submitted a timetable for

withdrawal... we insist on signing before the April 13 deadline set in the declaration of principles," he added. Gen. Yousef said April 13 was also the last acceptable date for the start of a threeweek withdrawal period.

Asked what the PLO would do if Israel did not agree, he

said: "We'll go back to the sponsors (the United States and Russia)... and ask them to assume their responsibilities." Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the declaration of principles in Washingtoo last September but negotiations on the details have dragged on for The delay has now become an issue because April 13, the date by which Israeli troops

much work still undone. Israel has indirectly added to the sense of urgency by unilaterally evacuating some installations in Gaza and Jericho. Gen. Yousef, in a tone unusual in the recent talks, complained bitterly about the Israeli delegation.

should complete the withdraw-

al, is rapidly approaching with

They are not serious about

PLO: Israel is dragging its feet reaching an agreement on spe-cific dates such as April 13... they have suggested a timetable for withdrawal within three weeks but they have not

specified a date for the start of this operation," he said. "We are ready to take over immediately but the israelis have not given us any specific time. They are not committed to what we agreed in Oslo (last

year)," he added. Asked if there was a crisis in

Israeli Prime Minister Yit-"If anyone expected there

Six to eight Palestinian police commanders had been expected to visit Gaza and Jericho earlier this week to inspect potential police posts,

reporters, both Mr. Shahak and chief PLO segotiator Nabil Shaath reported progress.

will end Wednesday since an Israeli holiday falls on Thurs-

meeting, he told reporters that progress had been slow on Monday but should pick up on

12 shot and wounded in

DEIR AL BALAH (AP) -Tuesday was moving day for the army in the Gaza Strip town of Dier Al Balah.

Soldiers made farewell photographs and loaded cabinets, chairs, desks and a still cold refrigerator onto a semi-trailer in the courtyard of the Israeli military government's headquarters.

After 27 years of occupation, changes on the ground that Palestinian leaders have being demanding are finally starting to take shape, not only here hut at other sites in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Jericho.

But for young militants, in particular, dismantling hases is too little to be convincing. Soldiers still patrol the sireets, and Palestinians remain wary of Israel's intentions - especially since the army is huilding new outposts to guard Jewish settlements which will not be

or pr

uprooted. So even though the moving was a visible sign of Israel's intent to leave. Palestinian youths with slingshots archedstones that bounced off the walls and olive drab jeeps. Troops gave chase, firing plasne bullets and teargas, wound-

ing two Arabs.
"We don't want peace. There will be stones every day." shouted Palestinian vouths, many aligned with Hamas that opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisanon (PLO) peacemaking.

Soldiers blamed the outburst of violence on the arrival of photographers, hut some appeared bewildered about why the Palestinians were throwing stones while they were pulling up stakes. "They don't want us to leave?" asked

Confusing prevailed in the streets, as well. Soldiers kept loading the trailer during the melee. Women walked

KUWAIT (AP) - Urging sou-

darity in the face of what he

described as Iraq's ever-pre-

sent menace, the crown prince,

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al

Sabah, announced a cabinef

In a 40-minute nationally-

televised address, Sbeikb

Saad, who is also prime minis-

ter, said the reshuffle was a

necessity "towards realising

the country's aims and ambi-

But be gave oo details of the

changes, nor a reason, saying

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al

The current 16-member

cabinet, formed in October

1992 following the first post-

Gulf war elections, includes six

members of parliament, and

there was speculation that

UNITED NATIONS (R) -

The U.N. secretary-general

said Monday he planned to

continue pressing for measures

designed to build confidence

hetween the two estranged

Cypriot communities despite

numerous Turkish Cypriot

objections and Greek Cypriot

the package of confidence-

building measures combined

with the revised ideas of March

21, 1994, offers real benefits to

both sides which would accrue

to each in a fair and timely measure," he said in a written

report to the Security Council.

he and his representatives

JORDAN TELEVISION

During the next few weeks

"I continue to believe that

reservations.

he first had to inform the emir.

resbuffle Monday.

through Israeli lines carrying hundles of wash, and a Muslim fundamentalist dressed in white with a black beard bicycled unnoticed between the soldiers as they knelt to shoot at demonstrators 50 metres away. Arah cars tried to edge their way around army vehicles.

Major Udi, a military commander in Deir Al Balah, said his unit was being moved to guard settlers in Gush Katif, the bloc of Jewish settlements in Gaza where over 4,000 settiers live.

The major said that even while the army formally was still in full control, his soldiers had orders not to patrol in the nearby refugee camps of Bureij, Nuseirat and Mughazi unless absolutely necessary.

"We are not going in he-cause we know the sensitivity of conducting patrols inside the camps," said Maj. Udi, identi-fied only by his first name according to army regulations. We are in a period of transinon, and we are trying to avoid confrontation

Israel and the PLO resumed accelerated talks in Cairo on Monday. Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said he expected agreement soon on the size and deployment timetable of the Palestinian police force to patrol the autonomous areas.

But a trip expected Monday by senior officers 10 inspect Gaza facilities was postponed. About 300 police are due to deploy in the autonomy areas by Thursday for administrative purposes. Up to 50 expellees, were due to cross into the occupied areas from Jordan and Egypt starting Tuesday.

At a seaside army hase in Gaza City, soldiers emptied mohile homes and moved them onto trucks. Equipment is either being trucked to Israel or to the Gush Katif bloc of Jewish settlements, where troops are to be posted once

oumber might be diminished.

a high-profile forum for critic-

ism of the government and a

theatre for calls for greater role

for Islam in lawgiving.
"There are some who have

been utilising freedom of ex-

pression venues... for spread-

ing tension, squabbles and

fruitless confrontations,"

Sheikb Saad said, without

are almost forming into parties with activities that spread

chaos and split our solidarity.

Political parties are not permitted in Kuwait, although most members of the 50-sear

assembly have aligned them-

selves into "movements" pri-

marily of Islamists, secularists

Secretary-General

The main confidence-build-

ing measures, set out in a U.N.

report last July 1, involve

reopening Nicosia airport and

the reson town of Varosha

under U.N. control. Both have

been disused since Turkish

troops occupied northern Cyp-

rus in 1974 in response to a

Greck-backed coup on the 1s-

Dr. Ghali, in his report,

gave an account of recent con-

tacts with the leaders of the

two communities by his special

representative, former Cana-dian Foreign Minister Joe

Clark, and his deputy, Gustave

Referring to a revised paper

presented to both sides on March 21, he said Turkisb

and tribal bedouins.

Boutros Ghali added.

'Groups have appeared that

naming any names.

he added.

basis."

land.

The parliament has become

Sheikh Saad announces cabinet reshuffle plan

U.N. to press for confidence-building measures in Cyprus

autonomy begins At the future Palestinian police beadquarters, Arab workers planted flowers out front and began paving a parking lot.

Similar scenes took place in Jeriebo, where Palestinian youths hurled stones as flatbed trucks pulled up outside police headquarters to remove equipment for the second day. Palestinians staged a large protest in the streets nearby, hurling stones at troops who de-. tained three Arabs. Saeh Erekai, a PLO nego-

tiator in Jericho, explained the continued protests as an ex-pression of Palestinian doubts. While they're leaving huildings in Jericho, the army is building new positions outside of town. People are cautious about the steps Israelis are taking and want to see whether they are just moving from one place to another." Mr. Erekat told the Associated

Sufian Ahu Zayda, the PLO spokesman in Gaza, said there was full cooperation between the army and the PLO on the redeployment and handover of buildings to the Palestinian

Mr. Ahu Zayda said the troop movements were good for Palestinian morale, "It is clear that in a few days, we will not see Israeli forces here... that shows that the agreement is starting to be implemented on the ground," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his cabinet Sunday the troops received orders to complete the pullout within five days once Israel and the PLO sign an autonomy accord, officials said.

Eovironmental Minister Yossi Sarid, who has been a top negotiator for Israel, said he expected the agreement to be reached by the end of April and the army withdrawal to be completed in early May.

The legislature is expected

to debate in the coming

months a constitutional

ameodment to make Islamie

law the main source of its

legislation, as proposed by 19

In an apparent reference to

Islamie fundamentalist de-

puties and other supporters.

the ameodment, which the

emir is authorised to block, the

Kuwaiti heir warned that "any

law that proves unsuitable for

the coming stage will be changed in the framework of

an overall review of laws in all

Kuwaiti newspapers of fostering

discord, charging that they are "filled with extremism and

thought terrorism," that were

driving an axe into Kuwaiti

Cypnot leader Rauf Denktash

'voiced numerous objections,

stating that the ideas contained

changes from the wording of the package of July 1, 1993 in

favour of the Greek Cypriot

The crown prince sought to

Sheikh Saad also accused

Gaza settlers want transfer into Israel

DUGIT, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Residents of this small, isolated Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip demanded Monday to be moved to safety in Israel and set up a tent camp within Israel in show of protest.

The settlers said they were afraid for their lives once Palestinian autonomy is implemented in Gaza, expected within weeks.

"Our security is deteriorating daily and last Friday a resident was shot at near the entrance to the settlement and miraculously not injured," said Dugit settler Yoram Ravitzki, speaking on Israel army radio.

"The majority want to move the settlement to a safer place," said Mr. Ravitzki, adding that Dugit was the only Jewish settlement in Gaza without a protective fence around it.

Six of the 18 Dugit families set up three tents on a beach just inside Israel on Sunday evening. On Monday, only one

drive bome his call for unity by playing upon fears that Iraq

could attack Kuwait again

more than three years after

emirate in the Gulf war.

U.S.-led forces liberated the

He said Iraq is "still thre-

He said Kuwait will build

more security posts along its

disputed border with Iraq and

fortify a recently completed

protective trench with adv-

anced early warning systems. Sheikh Saad also called on

Kuwaitis to bear their share of

the economic hurden of cutting

the budget deficit caused by

the falling oil prices and in-

creased spending on postwar

reconstruction.

atening our security aod sovereignty by rebuilding its

military and regaining its cap bility for aggressioo."

tent and three people were left. The others returned to Dugit, a fishing village set up four years ago.

The government has refused to discuss assistance to settlers in moving back to Israel until after the accord on Palestinian autonomy is implemented. Under the accord, settlements are to remain during the fiveyear interim autonomy period.

But hundreds of settlers have said they want to move back to Israel now. They have demanded compensation from the government, saying their homes have lost much of their value and that they cannot afford to rent or buy comparable houses in Israel.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, asked about the future of Dugit, said Monday that the government did not "force them to evacuate and therefore does not bave to pay."

He said that the government could not deal with compensation on an individual basis.

"The government must take a decision that will be for everyone," he told army radio.

Also Monday, two influential rabbis issued religious rulings that gave boost to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who has been under relentless attack from the right-wing opposition for suggesting he may dismantle settlements in the future.

The furor began after several cabinet ministers said Jewish settlers should be moved out of the tense West Bank town of Hebron in the wake of the Feb. 25 mosque massacre. Mr. Rabin said he would not move the 450 settlers "at this stage" but has refused to make a more solid promise that they can stay.

In response, three rabbis close to the pro-settlement National Religious Party ruled that under Jewish law, soldiers are allowed to refuse orders to dismantle settlemeots. But Rabbi Eliezer Schach areas remain under Jewish control Rabbi Schach, who has a large following among Israel's nitra-orthodox Jews, added

ruled Monday that it was per-

missible to move Jews out of

certain areas in the "Biblical

land of Israel" as long as these

that it was politically unwise atthis time to move settlers, the domestic news agency Itim quoted Schach aides as saying.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, spir-itual leader of Jews in North African descent, ruled there was no ban in Jewish law on moving Jews from one place to another. Rabbi Yosef, whose ultra-orthodox Shas Party is part of Mr. Rabin's ruling coalition, has ruled earlier that it is permissible to give up "parts of the land" if it belps

Since seizing the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war, Israel has built 144 settlements there with a population of about 125,000.

Radio toasted killers hours before massacre

TEL AVIV (AP) - A cabinet minister sought the shutdown on Monday of a right-wing radio station he charged with broadcasting a dchain 40
Jews who kill Arabs, just hours before the Hebron massacre. The toast was broadcast in

<u>. لائنان</u>

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the early hours of Feb. 25 on "Channel Seven," a Mediterranean Sea-based pirate station run by settlers Environment Minister Yoss Sarid told Israel Radio.

Benny Israel, who hosts English-language talk-back show on Channel Seven, agreed with a listener that Ami Popper, imprisoned for gunning down seven Arab labourers in 1990, and Yoram Skolnick, facing trial for shooting dead a bound and blindfolded guerrilla, were "righteous men," Mr. Sarid said.

He quoted Israel as concluding the chat by raising a toast for the Purim holiday to pop-per and skolnick, "who did what we all want to do, but we haven't got the guts.'

Purim commemorates the Biblical book of Esther, which recounts the rescue of the Jews of Persia from extermination The alleged toast could be interpreted as referring to the killing of 75,000 Persians in retaliation for the planned extermination.

Baruch Goldstein, a Brooklyn-born settler, gunned down dozens of worshippers in a Heb-roo mosque five bours after the broadcast.

A witness bas said Goldstein mentiooed Parim minutes before carrying out the massacre.

Mr. Sarid said the station should be shut down became of the broadcast. "I can ension (Goldstein) listening to the broadcast, and deciding that be's more Popper than Popper, a real Popeye," Mr. Sarid said. "He thinks, he'll show Benny Israel that he has. guts, that be oot just some wannabe murderer, he's a murderer.

Mr. Sarid said the cabinet asked the attorney general to investigate whether the broadcast was incitement, and if it was, to see about sbutting the statioo down.

Israel army radio said Channel Seveo management would not comment on the case, except to say that it dismissed Benny Israel soon after the offending broadcast.

Israel prohibits private broadcasting, which is why Channel Seven operates as a pirate. Nooetheless, Israel winks at pirate's use of onshore facilities. Channel Seven seeks advertising, pre-records prog-rammes and collects oews on

In the past, Mr. Sarid strongly defended another Pirate station, "The Voice of Peace," from right-wing moves to limit its broadcasts because of the left-wing policies of its ownership.

Also Monday, an extremist settler who recently served in the army reserves as deputy commander of the Ibrahimi Mosque, where the massacre occurred, told Israel army radio he would have done nothing to stop Goldstein.

Eliasef Moishevitz was not in reserves when the massacre took place. But, asked how he would have reacted if he was on duty at the site at the time of the massacre, he told army radio, "I'm loval to Jewish law, which absolutely prevents me from killing a Jew killing gentiles... I certainly understand what he did."

HLJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Cucumbers (large)
Cucumbers (small)

8:00 a.m. every Monds

----- 5:00 p.m. every Sup

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Saudis turn to local banks for financing for U.S. arms deal

DUBAI (R) - Sandi Arabia bas turned to local banks to fund \$1.85 billion of American arms purchases this year to speed up the financing deal,

But they added that the Saudis may well go to the international market for cash needed next year.

Bankers in Sandi Arabia re ported last week that three cash-flush domestic banks -Riyad Bank, National Commercial Bank and Sandi American Bank — were asked to raise the \$1.85 billion loan.

This raised eyebrows among bankers who wondered if the cash-pinched government had faced problems in its earlier efforts to raise the funds from international banks.

"The original idea was for international banks to step in but it was less complicated and quicker with Saudi-based hanks," said a well-placed Arab expert.

"Instead Saudi Arabia chose to spend the next six months thinking about how 10 finance the 1995 bill rather than spend the time in talks with the international banks," he added.

Talks to raise the funds on international markets could have taken several months, delaying payments to the U.S. government. This would in turn have affected production and delivery schedules for a wide-variety of arms including

state-of-the-art jet fighers and missiles and battle tanks. Riyadb agreed with

Washington in January to cut its cash commitments for billion a year over the next two years and bring down a total \$10 billion arms bill by a \$1 billion without cancelling any

orders, experts say. The agreement affects weapons on order from McDonnell Douglas Corp. Raytheon Co, General Dynamics Corp, General Motors Corp and FMC Corp. "It just makes it easier and is

acceptable to all concerned to go the Saudi Banks. Like this the FMS (U.S. foreign military sales) account will have funds and the programme advances on schedule," said the expert.
If an FMS account dries up, U.S. rules require suspension of delivery and production schedules until new funds are deposited.

Chase Manhartan, Citibank and J.P. Morgan Co. Inc. had originally been approached to raise the money international-

The experts said the three institutions are not completely out of the deal. They could be part of plans to finance next year's bill when Riyadh is expected to pay another \$1.5 billion in cash and raise more than \$2 billion on the market.

"Saudi Arabia is looking to set up a special purpose corporation which borrows the money, carries the debt oo its books and pays the bill for the weapons," one expert said.

"Such an arrangement is not en as a direct (Saudi Arabian) sovereign loan," be added in a reference to the government's reluctance to borrow in its own name despite a cash-shortage caused by a 20 per cent oil price fall in the past

"The banks will make available \$1.85 billion and the kingdom will play about \$1.5 billion for the 1994 U.S. bill," said an Arab expert familiar with Saudi moves to cut the kingdom's cash commitments over the next two years. According to the agreement

to defer payment, Riyadh would reassess the defence programme on a regular basis and could speed it up again if oil prices, close to five-year lows, pick up, official sources Sandi Arabia, the world's

largest oil producer and exporter, has U.S. arms deals worth about \$30 billion till the end of the century. It has announced a 20 per cent cut in its 1994 budget, down to \$42 billion, in an effort to absorb weak oil Riyadh, which pumps eight

million barrels of oil a day, hopes prices will pick up again in 1996/97 as demand rises, ending its current cash crunch, experts said.

JORDAN TIMES 667171

would "continue high-level contacts with the two Cypriot parties and others in pursuit of an agreement on the present

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German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195

The Caurch of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Am-Tel. 811295

WEATHER

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Mr. Denktash particularly emphasised his objections to

proposals related to security of access between the U.N. controlled buffer zone and Varosha arrangements concerning traffic rights at Nicosia airport the timing of benefits to the Turkish Cypriot community and the collection by the United Nations of customs duties in both areas.

Referring to Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, the secretary-general said: "The leader of the Greek Cypriot community stated that, while be did oot like many of the

Yacoub pharmacy

Dr. Fayez Qadi Al Quds pharms

changes which had been introduced in the March 21 text, he was prepared to accept that revised text if the Turkish Cypnot leader would do likewise. Dr. Ghali said Mr. Feissel

confirmed publicly, after another meeting with Mr. Denktash March 28, that "there had been no new developments and that the Turkish Cypriot side had not provided the response necessary to make an agreement on the implementation of the confidence-building measures possi-The secretary-general said

he would report in greater detail hy the end of April on the continuing contacts, "together with my recommendations to the Security Council as to further measures it may wish to

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly active and seas calm.

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FOR THE TRAVELLED **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AKRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Terminal 1) Aqaba (RJ) Jeddah (RJ)

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Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday tours the sites of new hotel projects around Petra (photo by George Crystal)

Queen inaugurates museum, reviews plans for Petra's future AMMAN - As honoorary

chairpersoo and patron of the Petra National Trust, Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visited the Petra region to in-augurate the Petra Museum. The Queen was briefed by Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan who is the president of the Higher Committee for Sustainable Tourism Development io the Petra Regioo, and Ahdollab Abu Aiyyash, the assistant secretary-general at the Ministry of Tourism, on a comprebensive and integrated master blan for the systainable development of the area. Queen Noor met with Uoited Nations Educational, Social and Coltural Organisation (UNESCO) representatives in Petra and discussed with them the secood

are currectly completing. "- The proposed master plan is in conformity with the draft recommendations of a UN-ESCO study ioitiated by Queen Noor in 1989. The aim of the master plan is to draft a trategy for the loog-term sustainable development of Petra that achieves a halance between the increasing demands of economic and touristic concerns and between the oced to preserve and protect the architectural environment and the delicate eco-system of the ! area while still providing for the social oeeds and well-being of the inhabitants of the re-

The plan addresses the need for infrastructure, including roads, parking areas, drainage and water, electricity and communications, social services in-

cluding health and edocation. land use, environmental impact assessment, the protection of architectural characteristics and the integration of the re-gion from Taybeh to Beyda into one municipality to improve management and access to services.

The plan, which requires a short-term investment of JD 12 million, also addresses the services available to toorists and their impact on the area, recommeods regulating the movement of tourists through the Siq, restricting commercial activity inside Petra, and improving services and providing income-geoeratiog activities promoting local handicrafts in the Wadi Musa Municipality.

Queen Noor said that Jordan must try to halance, as so many countries around the world have to, the competiog ioterests of economic and tooristic concerns with environmental and social needs. She said it is essential to protect the archaeological and

natural environment of Petra. The oew master plan, she added, should provide a new set of guidelines to limit the number of tourists that visit Petra per day, and at the same time try to develop income-generating activities for the local people.

The Queen expressed the oeed to integrate all the concerns within a comprehensive plan, which would incorporate Jordan's global responsibility as custodian to the site of Petra as a world heritage as well as recognisiog the importance of the site to every Jordanian.

During her visit, Queen Noor also inaugurated a new museum in Petra established by the Department of Anti-

The museum displays small artifacts excavated in the Petra region from the Neolithie village of Beydha, the Iron Age settlement of Tawilan, the Nahatean and late Romao houses at Al Zantur, and excavations of the Temples of the Winged Lions, Qasr Al Biot and the Petra Chorch.

The Petra museum was huilt to compliment an older one in Petra which displays larger arehitectural and sculpted stone objects.

The Queen later toured the sites of five oew botel projects and visited the village of Taybet Zaman.

Accompanied by Their Highnesses Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda and Dr. Adwan, the Queeo was received by the Governor of Ma'an, the secretary geoeral of the Ministry of Tourism, the secretary general of the Department of Antiquities, the mayor of Wadi Musa and the chief of police.

Also Tuesday, Her Majesty attended a concert by the Japanese Kobo Quartet at the Royal Cultural Centre.
The concert is part of the

activities of the first quartets festival organised by the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Found-

The ecocert was also attended by Her Royal Highoess Princess Ghida Talal and Senator Laila Sharaf.

Princess Sarvath opens IFRCRCS meeting urging continued effort in humanitarian projects

consequence to Jordan of the U.S.-led inspection of Agababased ships has been the delay of the opening of the Red Crescent Hospital Extension, said Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday.

Addressing the opening of the 23rd meeting of the executive committee of the International Federadon of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, (IFRCRCS), which is being hosted in Amman, Priocess Sarvath said the ship that was carrying the equipment for the new operating theatres was "arbitrarily turned back at Aqaba, de-laying the project by six

"So whilst I had hoped to show you (the attendees to the meeting) the completed extensioo, made possible through the generosity of so many of you present today, the intricacies of power poliocs have made this impossible. Nevertheless, the extension will soon be open, to better serve the oeeds of the vulnerable in our society," said the Princess.

Priocess Sarvath emphasised that Jordan has always had excellent working relations with the International Movemeot of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and "as such we are proud to host the regional office for Lehanon, Iraq. Syria, as well as Jordan, here in Amman.

She said the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), has branches all over the country, and has undertaken vital work in this troubled regioo, "most drama-tically during the Gulf war, when it rose to the immense challenge of alleviating the plight of wave after wave of displaced people." She explained that on an ongoing basis, the JNRCS has orgaoised youth camps and workshops to spread the principles of the movement, provided first-aid courses, run free hospitals and clinics, cared for orphans, offered bloodbanking services, and distributed relief items among other

activities. "Unfortunately. Jordanian society is oo less vulnerable than any other, to the stresses and strains of modern life, as well as to some less than desirable outside influences," Princess Sarvath said.

Therefore, she added, the INRCS believes that it must play its role in helping to tackle these social ills, and one manifestation of this is the community programme against drug abuse that it will launch in the pear future.

Princess Sarvath said that within Jordan, the JNRCS is regarded as an active partner in the Kingdom's mission not only to help victims of conflict. hut to provide a stable, decent eovironment for all its peoples. irrespective of their origins.

"Being at the core of the world's longest running conflict has exacted a severe toll on our country io all ways. Jordan has had to deal with harsh economic and demographic realities in striving to make her dreams come true. Nevertheless, we have not been daunted in our quest for excellence in those areas where we believe there can be no compromise, and are justifiably proud of certain achievements



President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society Mohammad Al Hadid Tuesday addresses the opening session of the 23rd meeting of the IFRCRCS. Also on

Such achievements, she said, are not only attributable to a strong national will, but owe much to a determined effort at positive cooperation on the sein's continuous efforts in this part of all Jordanians, peoples sphere since he assumed his constitutional powers in 1952. and government, with various U.N. agencies, and interna-tional as well as nadonal non-

and Red Crescent Societies. The Princess concluded her address by saying that with the help of organisations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Jordan hopes to maintain its proud tradition long into the

Prime Minister Abdul Salam

governmental organisations

(NGO's) such as the Red Cross

Majali also addressed the opening meeong, emphasising Jordan's commitment to peace and His Majesty King Hus-

Dr. Majali recalled the latest tragic events in the occupied territories, saying that they remind everyone of the dire need to lay aside arms and work for economic development.

He said that linking arms with human progress has never been part of the great Arah culture, nor has it been a target. Such a link constitutes a folly which needs to be stop-

Taking part in the meeongs are officials of IFRCRCS and members of the executive committee of the Arah Red Crescent and Red Cross Socieoes, and presidents of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Iraq, Palestine, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, the British and Spanish Red Cross and the secretary general of the Scandinavian cooperation

the podium are Her Royal Highness Prin-

cess Sarvath and Prime Minister Abdul

council.

Salam Majali (Petra photo)

In the evening Princess Sarvath, who is deputy honourary president of JNRCS, hosted a dinner for the delegates to the meeting at Basman Palace.

European, Jordanian investors to explore joint mining prospects AMMAN (Petra) - The A total of 70 working papers mittee for the first Jordanian

European Union (EU) later this month will sponsor European-Jordanian meeting on joint investment, according to Mobammad Abu Taha of the Jordanian engineers association.

The meeting will he attended by Jordanians as well as European investors in mineral and natural resources and is expected to explore the prospect of launching joint schemes in miniog and industry, said Mr. Abu Taha who is also head of preparatory comconference on mining to open at the University of Jordan on

The mining conference. which will precede the European-Jordanian meeting, he said, will pave the ground for joint meeting.

Organised by the JEA, the University of Jordan and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), the conference will be attended by 250 delegates from countries, said Mr. Abu Taha.

will be reviewed at the threeday event, focusing mainly on oil exploration, mining economics, geological engineering, marketing of minerals and the mining industry at large, added Mr. Abu Taha.

He said a particular emphasis will be placed on Jordan's natural resources, mainly phosphate (of which Jordan produces 4.3 million tonnes) potash, copper, dolomite, grantile, oil shale, and petroleum among others.

to extend bus service

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) soon will submit a request to the government to extend its bus service concession to areas outside Amman and will enlist the help of private transport companies to improve its services, according to Suleiman Hababbeh, the PTC director general

He told the Jordan Times

Tuesday that when the PTC obtains the concession it would lease routes to private bus companies which would operate under its supervision.

The PTC, he said, had separate agreements with 13 companies in Amman to help solve the transportation problems within the greater Amman area, and the experiment, he added, proved to be successful.

Each of these companies has a 15-year lease with the PTC and makes an annual payment to the corporation in accordance with the agreement, explained Mr. Hahahbeh.

He said that the 13 companies now operate 450 medium-size buses along various routes inside the capital and the suburbs

Prince Firas, Sharifeh Nofah attend children's camp opening

WAQQAS — Northern Jor-dan Valley (Petra) — His Highness Prioce Firas Beo Ra'd said here Tuesday that Jordanian statistics iodicate that oearly 10 per cent of the country's population, or 400,000 inhabitants, suffer from some kind of disability and this fact should provide incentives for doubling efforts to deal with this situation.

Addressing a ceremony marking the opening of a camp by Jordanian volonteers in the Jordan Valley, the Prince said the camp and its activities are an embodiment of His Majesty King Hussein's philosophy that highlights the importance of voluntary work in the King-

Sharifeh Nofah Bint Nasser Ben Jamil, head of the Jordaoiao Voluoteers Group, opened the camp activities and outlined the volooteers' work and the group's achievements over the past two years of its existence.

The group comprises academicians and youth and operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Developmeot, said Sharifeh Nofah. The volunteers, she added, offer services at the camps which are usually set up outside the capital at Ajloun io the summer and in Aqaba during winter.

WHAT'S GOING ON

This year the group is holding a camp in the Jordan Valley to provide training to local teachers employed at charitable societies and to carry out voluntary work such as mainteoance, organising recreational trips for handicapped children and their relatives and lectures oo ways to assist the handicap-

ped, said Sharifeh Nofah. Later she distributed gifts to 40 children from the local charitable societies caring for the handicapped.

Prince Firas attended a seminar at a local school to discuss effective measures in dealing with the disability of individuals in the country.

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TALKING TRADE: The Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Economic

Committee Tuesday opens a meeting in Amman to discuss

promoting trade and economic relations between their coun-

tries. Asem Hindawi, director of economic cooperation at the

Ministry of Industry and Trade who led the Jordanian side,

said Jordan was keen on finding ways to develop trade with

Tunisia and diversify the goods already in exchange. Moham-

mad Shawish, director of the industry department at the

Tunisian ministry of economy who headed his team, said the

two sides were determined to overcome obstacles impeding

Jordanian-Tunisian trade. Apart from trade matters, he said,

the two sides hope to discuss promoting cooperation in tourism, transport, customs affairs and agriculture. The joint committee

is expected to draw op a list of national products which the two

countries are to exchange during 1994, according to Mr.

Hindawi. The Tunisian team, which arrived in Amman Monday night, plans to hold meetings with other Jordanian officials on Wednesday (Petra photo)

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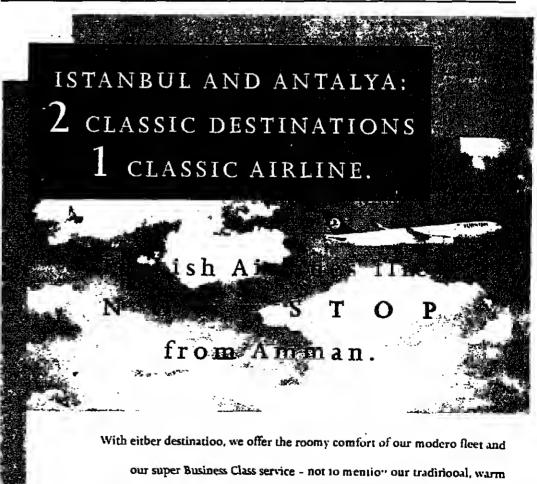
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699914). * Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at

(Tel. 819861). ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Habeeb and Faronk Hassan at Alia Art Gallery (10:00

(Brothers and Sisters) at the Royal Jultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. **EXHIBITIONS** Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at

the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348) Exhibition of Zalloum foodstuff prodocts at the Royal Cultural Centre.

EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

French film entitled "Max Et Jeremie" at

* Italian film entitled "Fratelli E Sorelle"

the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

* The Second International Stationery Exhibition at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

Book exhibition at Amman University. ** Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallary (Tel-

* Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932). "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel.

Aba'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.)

* Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Sagra (9:30 a.m-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.).

Exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" at

☆ "The Amman-Baghdad exhibition" by Artist Ahmad Al Shaikhali at the Royal

☆ Ceramics exhibition by artist Isam Nseirat at

* Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal

* Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal

Aman (10:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166)

Balka' Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

* Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at

the Royal Cultural Centre.

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Cultural Centre.

* Musical performance by "Mirage" band at Prince Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 5:30 p.m.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

DRAMA

* Comedy in Arabic entitled "The Guarantee" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00.

Jordan Times

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Keeping the channels open

DESPITE THE euphoria with which the peace process was greeted when it began in Madrid in 1991, no one expected the negotiations to bring about an immediate solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Nor did anyone believe the Arab parties to the talks will have identical approaches to the many complicated aspects of a conflict that continued to grow wider during the decades in which it has kept the whole region living under the shadow of war.

Differences among them were bound to develop, but common national interests and the necessity for a coordinated and unified Arab stand against an enemy which always sought to divide Arab ranks provided enough guarantees that these differences will never grow into major disagreements.

More than anybody else, the fates of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are inter-connected. What happens on the West Bank of the river will have its reverberations in the East Bank. So will any development in Jordan have its bearing on the Palestinians. That is why it is so crucial that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) maintain open channels and the highest level possible of coordination. Strong Jordanian-Palestinian relations are a requirement by everyone interested in protecting the rights of the Arabs, a necessity that neither side can escape. Only Israel would want the PLO and Jordan to go their separate ways; because only Israel will benefit under such a scenario.

Jordan has, throughout the peace talks, called for a strong Arab front in the negotiations, emphasising more than anything else the uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. In words as well as in deeds, it demonstrated its support for the Palestinian people and the negotiating position of the PLO. But we will be fooling ourselves to say that differences between the two sides did not emerge. It es no purpose to deny that the rela some point uneasy, at other tense. But, fortunately, the disagreements have so far been contained and the problems not allowed to grow out of proportion. From that, there has been only one winner: the Arabs, one loser: the Israelis.

Hence is the importance of the visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Jordan yesterday to discuss the Palestinian track of the negotiations with His Majesty King Hussein. The meeting would certainly help put things back in their right perspective and give a boost to efforts to have stronger coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians. The PLO can only benefit from hearing the Jordanian point of view on the problems facing its negotiators, and the Arab negotiating position can only get better.

Only through continuous contacts can Jordan and the PLO overcome their differences. Only by maintaining a strong front can the two sides make real progress in working to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation, regain Arab rights and advance the cause of peace in the

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday urged the government to refrain from taking part in the Muscat meeting of the multilateral group on water issues until the siege on Aqaba ends. It is clear that Washington is dragging its feet about ending the siege until the date of April 17 arrives when the working group on water meets, said Tareq Masarweh. All the multilateral group meetings will not achieve anything in the absence of Syria and Lebanon and they are mere seminars not different from those being held in Amman hotels, said the writer. Why should we succumb to the wishes and desires of the United States and why should we attend a U.S.-sponsored meeting when the United States maintains an unjust embargo on Agaha harming our economy? asked the writer. The siege on Aqaba is imposed by the United States which does not apply the same practice on the Iranian and Turkish ports which are open to trade with Iraq, be added. It is clear that Washington is exercising pressure on Jordan to accept the Israeli terms for peace and serve as a buffer zone between the Jewish state and Iraq and Syria, said the writer. It is clear that Washington is linking the end of the Aqaba siege to our consent to comply to Israel's wishes, therefore, said the writer, we should never compromise on our sovereignty.

CRITICISING THE Cairo agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on stationing civilian observers in Hebron, a columnist in A! Ra'i said that the observers can by no means ensure protection to the Palestinians. Fahd Al Fanck said that the presence of foreign observers could only have a psychological effect on the Palestinians - who will not be protected from any attacks by Jewish settlers. The writer said that Jordan had to give its hlessing to the agreement out of a feeling that the fate of the Palestinians is entirely in the hand of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. But Jordan has made it clear that security can be achieved only with the evacuation of Jewish settlers and the dismantling of settlements. The writer said that most probably the agreement was drawn up in Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office and therefore it is meant only to serve Israel's interests.

By G.H. Jansen

VERY CONSIDERABLE alarm and despondancy has been expressed at the good showing of the Islamists, in the innocuously named Welfare Party, in the nationwide municipal election that Turkey held on March 27. As one of the party leaders put it, with a certain amount of exaggeration. "Europe is shaking in its boots.'

On the face of it, the success of Welfare Party is not all that striking or shaking because, of the four major parties in the election, the party stood third, with 19 per cent of the vote. The ruling True Path Party of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, came first with 23 per cent of the vote and the main opposition Motherland won 22 per cent. The coalition partner Social Democrat Populist Party came fourth with 12 per cent

But there were two other aspects of Welfare's achievement that were striking, or ominous. Whereas True Path lost a few percentage points, Welfare doubled its strength from the nine per cent it got in the last election in 1989. Further, on the municipal level Welfare's successes were spectacular: Its candidates won the posts of mayor in Turkey's two main cities. Istanbul and the national capital Ankara, and took over the municipalities in 26 other towns, compared with 12 for True Path. What probably had the most shaking impact on Europe is that Turkey claims to be a European country; a small part of its territory is, after all, known as "Turkey-in-Europe," and Islamic fun-damentalism seems to have defeated the prolonged, con-certed and so-far successful efforts by the Christian Western powers to keep Islam out of southeastern Europe, which they did by frustrating the establishment of a Mus-



Is 'Europe shaking in its boots'?

lim state in Bosnia. Since Turkey has gotten the U.N. to accept 1,000 Turkish sol-diers in the U.N. force in Bosnia, Islam may now leap-frog the barrier of the Straits of Bosphorus and bypass the Orthodox Christian countries of Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia. Furthermore, the country in which Islam has now proved its popular strength is one that for 50 years has proclaimed itself to be secular, or laic, as asserted by the founder of modern Turkey Kemal Ataturk, who in fact was not really laic but nonreligious and even anti-Islamic. Of course Ataturk's

A strong show by Turkey's Islamists rings the alarm

or no impact on Islamic devo-tion in Turkey, particularly at the popular level. Islam simply went underground and observance flowed through the tarikas, the semi-

clandestine "brotherhoods." Western Enrope would probably be much less shaken if, on reflection, it realised that the forward surge of militant fundamentalist Islam has not been produced by spiritual forces but, on the contrary, by material challenges, the challenges of. poverty, ignorance, disease and, most particularly, the challenge of mass unemploy-ment of the educated or semi-educated middle class. The electoral success of the Welfare Party had more to do with economic realities than with Sharia.

In other words, militant Islam is the product of certain objective economic conditions, and where these exist militant Islam will emerge if certain other preconditions

The country, obviously, has to be Islamic, with a devont Muslim-majority. And almost all large Muslim groupings are devout, which they certainly are in Turkey, despite the superficial success of the shallow reforms of the so-called Kemalist "revolu-

Militant Islam obviously needs leaders or groups with an Islamic ideology to show the way. Which is why it played a leading role in all the nationalist movements in Afro-Asian countries: in Indonesia, Iran, the various Arab countries and, conspi-

cuously, in what would be the last of these nationalist struggles, in Afghanistan.

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Yet, if nationalism is no longer the carrier-wave of militant Islam, there are contemporary happenings that are helping to carry it forward, in countries like Egypt and Algeria where Islam's nltimate victory seems assured. There is the continuing pressure and chailenge from omnipresent Western-style modernism that is inescapable through programmes on radio and television and in the cinema.

There is the cruder challenge that Muslims are being persecuted for being Muslims in such widely separated parts of the world as Bosnia. Myan Mar or Burma, Kashmir and Palestine. The Muslim countries tried and failed to make a specifically Islamic response in Bosnia through speeches at, and resolutions of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, in which Turkey played a prominent role. However, the resolutions and speeches did at least serve to keep alive the idea of resistance to the anti-Muslim campaign in Bosnia.

Negatively, the collapse of Communism has removed one alternative response to Western hegemony, leaving Islam to stand or fall on its

Just as the ideology of militant Islam has material causes, it likewise has material and ideological antidotes. Democracy can be an effec-tive antidote through free and fair elections. So, too, is economic development provided it is effectively planned and executed. These are not impossible alternatives to militant Islam, these alternatives have not failed because they have never really been tried except, perhaps, in Jor-

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialising in Mid-dle Eastern and Islamic

Tamilgate' reveals dark side to Danish politics Turn on the red light

By Lars Foyen

COPENHAGEN — Denmark's "Tamilgate" drama. which brought down Prime Minister Poul Schlueter, has entered its final act, the impeachment of former justice minister. Erik Ninn-Hansen.

Mr. Ninn-Hansen, 71, grand old man of the Conservative tor, is accused of breaking the law by ordering a halt to family reunifications for Tamil tefugees from Sri Lanka in 1987.

Prosecutors describe the proceedings, the first in Denmark in 84 years, as an ordinary criminal trial. The defence says it is the last round in a

political power game. Mr. Ninn-Hansen denies breaking the law, saying he was carrying out the implied wishes of his own minority centre-right cabinet and the

opposition Social Democrats. More than 100 colleagues have accused me of breaking the law." Mr. Ninn-Hansen, a prominent member of parliament for 41 years, said in a bitter attack on the legislature which last year voted to impeach him.

"But I still do not understand what I am being accused

A final ruling is expected in the second half of the year and he could face a fine or up to

The crux of the case is about the supreme power of parlia-

By Thalia Griffiths

KORIBUNDU, Sierra Leone

- Dressed in a vellow vest and

shorts, the commanding officer

of Sierra Leone's Koribundu

Garrison calls for another bot-

tle of Guinness and surveys the

deserted street below his bal-

"People have confidence in

me, even without uniform I am

the commander." Lieutenant-

Colonel Ali Samora tells a visiting reporter. "My only

Koribundu, on the edge of

rebel territory in southeastern

Sierra Leone. looks like a wild

west town with its wide, dusty

main street lined by tin-roofed

Rehels attacked the town on

March 12. Mr. Samora says

five of his men were killed and

at least 20 rebels were shot

dead. Since then, many resi-

dents have fled to the regional

capital Bo. 30 km to the north.

Four captives were brought

out for questioning. One was

dismissed from the army at the heginning of March. Two de-

two-storey houses.

problem is I like to drink."

ment and adherence to Lutheran values such as following the rules and always telling the

anti-Islamic reforms had little

Try to look away from re-fugees and immigration policies. This case is not about Tamils. It is about the law applying to all citizens, even to justice ministers," prosecutor John Petersen said as proceedings started.

because he was anticipating tighter legislation on immigration he had asked officials in his ministry to put Tamil cases on "hold" within the boundaries of what he described as woolly immigration laws.

The prosecutors maintain the law gives refugees an unambiguous right to have their families join them.

An influx of Tamils fleeing the civil war in Sri Lanka in 1987 coincided with widespread sentiment in Denmark that immigration in general and family reunifications in particular had to he curtailed.

A parliamentary majority in favour of tougher immigration laws never materialised, and the halt of Tamil reunifications was revealed by the parliamentary Ombudsman in 1989.

Mr. Ninn-Hansen. H.P. Clausen who succeeded him as justice minister and, finally, Mr. Schlueter himself were accused of misleading parliament in attempts to cover up

There was a feeling among the opposition that Schlueter-

nied the claims of the fourth

talk. soldiers tied their hands

and feet with wire and rope

and threw them on the ground.

They still denied that they

were rebels despite the fourth

man's denunciation. So they

were suspended face down

from iron bars protruding from

They groaned in pain as Mr.

Samora aimed a periodic kick

at their abdomens. Blood,

Mucus and sweat formed a

pool on the ground under each

of them. Finally they had had

enough and started to tell their

"We're treating them gently

because you're here," said Mr.

Samora's adjutant. Lieutenant

Edgar Momoh. "We know

Mr. Momoh said it appeared

the suspects were armed rob-

bers with no links to the Re-

volutionary United Front

(RUF) rebels. They would be

handed over to police, whereas

captured rebels were usually

how to make them talk."

the building's doors.

When the two refused to

that they were rebels.

kicking them.

led minority governments, in power since 1982, were developing a habit of arrogantly bypassing parliament.

Economy and Tax Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen resigned in November 1992 after opposition parties threatened a no confidence vote against him for switching budgetary funds for technical reasons without properly informing members

The Tamil affair came to a head in January 1993 when Supreme Court Justice Mogens Hornslet released the 6,000page result of a 30-month judicial inquiry, accusing Mr. Schlueter of lying to parliament about it.

Mr. Schlueter resigned and three small pivotal centrist parties that had been part of his parliamentary platform switched their support to Social Democrat Poul Nyrup Rasmussen who formed a fourparty government.

Last June, parliament voted by 105-45 to impeach Mr. Ninn-Hansen. Those in favour included members of his own

parry.
Mr. Schlueter and Mr. Clausen, who were repri-

manded by parliament, will not be impeached. Mr. Ninn-Hansen's defence

lawyers say his impeachment. before a panel of 12 supreme court judges and 12 lay judges appointed by parliament, is a political vendetta and a way of providing a scapegoat in a case

The RUF, which invaded

from Liberia in March 1991.

backed at the time by Charles

Taylor's Liberian militia, laun-

ched a new offensive this year.

disproving government claims

Nigeria and Guinea have

both sent troops to help Sierra

Leone to put down the revolt.

Fighters of Liberia's anti-

Taylor Ulimo militia also sup-

new pattern which is really

giving us problems." the Secretary of State for the

Soutbern Region, Captain

Tom Nyuma, told Reuters in

and burning villages. They've

switched from attacking milit-

ary positions to civilian

Most bafflingly, no one

seems to have much idea who

the rebels are or what they

want. "We don't know any-

thing about them. We ask

them to come and talk but they

don't respond," Mr. Nyuma

"They are staging ambushes

"The rebels have adopted a

port the government army

that it was a spent force.

Rebel war gives Sierra Leone a 'wild east'

which embarrasses all politi-

Mr. Ninn-Hansen caused a stir last month when he announced that he was shortly undergoing an operation for an unspecified medical condition. His treatment will force a one-month recess in the pro-

ceedings between Easter and May 2.
"Tamilgate" has led to a new atmosphere of confrontation in a country traditionally ruled by minority governments but where consensus-seeking politicians used to get things done in spite of ideological

differences. The new government, trailing badly in opinion polls before a general election due by December, has not achieved its stated ambition of improving government ethics.

Justice Minister Pia Gjellerup and Social Affairs Minister Bente Juncker have been forced to resign and Tax Minister Ole Stavad has been under pressure to do so.

The scandals have involved ministerial negligence, arrogance or lies. But no financial gains for the ministers.

The Danish media report each case in detail hut the public appears far from en-

Despite 21 months of parliamentary "Tamilgate". dehates followed by the judicial inquiry, many Danes still do not understand what all the fuss is about.

Godfrey Sabiti, Sierra

Leone representative of the

United Nations High Commis-

sioner for Refugees, said the composition of the rebels

seemed to be changing and some attacks blamed on them

were the work of undisciplined

"You look at the areas

which are attacked and wonder

how the rebels could have got

there if the army is on the

On March 12. an Irish priest

and a Dutch couple with their

three year-old daughter were

murdered at Panguma, near

Kenema. Missionaries and aid

workers said the killers could

have been either government

Armed men often stage

amhushes on the road from Bo

to the Diamond town of Kene-

ma. 300 km from Freetown.

Aid organisations no longer

use it and say 170,000 dis-

placed people in Daru and

Segbwema have received no

supplies since January.

troops.

alert." he said.

troops or rebels.

much ground the administration bad given up before reaching this impasse. It gave in on inspecting nuclear sites that North Korea deemed offbinits. It deferred the demand for continuing inspections, accepting a one-shot inspection of seven declared sites.

fightin. words.

But when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was harred from one of even these sites after it discovered a broken seal indicating the possible diversion of plutonium for more bombs, the gig was up. The IAEA blew the whistle and, in effect, declared North Korea a nuclear renegade (in "noncompliance," in IAEA-speak). Now the U.N. Security Council, led by the United States, is supposed to do something.

What has the administration been doing up to now? The only person who bas been able to make sense of its Korea policy has been, Jim Hoagland. The policy, he

explained boils down to this: the administration is willing to concede as "so much spilt milk" whatever bombs and plutonium the North Koreans already have, but it is drawing a line in the sand, a new, more realistic line - it will not tolerate new bombs or rockets.

Well, now we get to see whether the administration bas the spine to hold any line. By summer, write Gary Milhollin and Diana Edensword of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, the North Koreans will be able to divert enough new plutonium for two more bombs. And when their new 800-megawatt reactor comes on line in two years,

they will be producing enough plutonium for 30 to 40 bombs

This is the ultimate nightmare. Unlike other nuclear .: wannabes, North Korea wants the stuff not just for show or use but for sale. As CIA Director James Woolsey points out, North Korea is "in a league by

itself... the preeminent world proliferator. Which is why the Clinton administration is finally acting, albeit painfully slowly. The United Nations will not be asked to impose economic sanctions now, but only if North Korea does not repent hy a later date. Patriot missiles are being sent to South Korea not by air but by sea. There is a kind of desperation in this delay, a hope against hope that if

something will turn up.

The administration is acting now because not to act would expose its containment policy as a farce. For a year, administration doves bave been praying that Kim Il Sung would let them off the hook. He declined. Now the doves have come around to where the hawks were a year ago: preparing to pressure Mr. Kim with

Korean threats to go to war. It is a fearful prospect that even administration doves realise can no longer be wished away. Mr. Clinton has been president for a year. On North Korea, it has been a year of dithering, of further North Korean bomb development, of American weakness and uncer-

America's two critical allies in such a coalition are Japan and China. The administration has succeeded in alienating both: Japan, with heavyhanded threats of a trade war; and, more seriously, China, with Mr. Christopher's disastrous trip to Beijing. Moreover, the president has done nothing to prepare the American people for the danger that lies ahead.

needs to explain America's goals, its reasons for trying to stop North Korea from going nuclear, and the nature and magnitude of the threat . He sets out his policy with firmness and explains its dangers with honesty, he can be assured of hipartisan poliocal support and the beginning of public understanding. He will need both if he is to avoid making a mockery of his commitment to non-proliferation

Washington Pust Writers

for North Korea •

By Charles Krauthammer

After a year of meeting ev-

ery broken North Korean nuc-

lear promise with infinite pati-

ence and yet another proffered

carrot, even Secretary of State

Warren Christopher appears to

have reached his limit. He

warned North Korea that if it

does not "become a responsi-

ble member of the , international

community" — fat chance — Washington "will have no

choice but to pursue other op-

tions," and "these other op-

tions include progressively stronger measures. Coming

from Mr. Christopher, them's

It is important to realise how

WASHINGTON - Sometimes even appeasement doesn't work. When North Korea ostentatiously reneged on its promise to allow a nnetime inspection of some of its nnclear facilities, the Clinton administration had to concede that its policy of serial concessions had reached a dead end.

one acts slowly enough maybe sanctions in the face of North

The president urgently and his own policy ' of contain-

King, Arafat review peace talks (Continued from page 1)

atrained in Eygpt, Yemen, Iraq and elsewhere in the Arah

World. Mr. Arafat, who was received upoo arrival by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior officials, praised King Hussein's stands

in support of the Palestinian

The PLO chairman described as another positive achievement the Israeli agreement to allow the return of nearly 45 Palestinians expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Around the time Mr. Arafat arrived, a group of 26 Palesti-nian expellees and their families crossed the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank as part of accelerated moves towards Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho as envisaged in the September deal signed in Washington. Another group of 17 entered the Gaza Strip from

Egypt.
Mr. Arafat expressed hope that Israel would allow more of the 2,000 plus Palestinians that the Jewish state expelled after occupying the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 war.

Mr. Arafat expressed hope that progress would be made soon in the ongoing Israel-PLO negotiations in Cairo and said a round of talks on economic cooperation was scheduled to begin in Paris on Wednes-

day.
The PLO chairman said the Cairo talks were focused on a "mechanism" to implement U.N. Security Council Resolntion 904 of March 18 which condemned the Feb. 25 massacre of dozens of Palestinians by one or more Jewish settlers at Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque. The resolution heightened.

international awareness of the Palestinian people's plight under occupation he said.

run into snags in the face of as Israel's stalling over key issues such as the deployment of the police force.

Reports from Tunis have said that the PLO leader was planning a visit in May.

Prime Minister Majali said the PLO had intended well by in-sisting on including a reference to Jerusalem in the resolution.

Mr. Arafat was received at the airport by Dr. Majah, Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Al Ana-

Expellees return to homeland

(Continued from page 1)

told the Jordan Times that it would be her first visit to Palestine. Born in Damascus, Ms. Deek said she would settle in her husband's hometown just outside Nahlns. "This is what my father and many others died for — our return," she told the Jordan Times.

Intissar Wazir, a member of the Palestine Central Council. was at the PLO mission to see off her daughter and son-in-

Faisal Hosseini, leading Fateh official in the occupied territories, kissed and hngged well-wishers before boarding one of the two huses reserved for returnees to accompany

"This is a small first step

leading to the return of over a

Tunis-hased PLO leadership enters the occupied territories. Also on Tuesday, another 17 deportees entered to the occupied Gaza Strip from Egypt through the Rafah crossing.

"The Social Security Cor-

poration and the Jordan In-

vestment Bureao currently in-

vest in shares or in money-

making projects," the premier said. "We think that their

funds could be better used in

huilding government office

buildings and housing for em-

ployees. The government

would then rent the offices

from these corporations in-

stead of the buildings they cur-

rently occupy ... that would

ensure a return on their invest-

ment and would generate more

money for investments in

labour-intensive projects," he

The premier also said he

believed that progress in the

Middle East peace process and

improvement in Arab-Arah re-

Tackling bureaucracy a priority

to do this.

(Continued from page 1)

ground were different "man citizens would stay in their areas and invest in projects there hecause they would know that decisions can be taken quickly in their own district and without referring to Amman."

The premier said that Interior Minister Salameh Hammad's statement Monday that special committees were drawing up a draft law on elections and another on new administrative divisions concerning different districts was borne ont of this idea, but that the government was still at the early stage of thinking about

Just as this vision includes setting up a chain of government decision-making offices in the different districts, the premier helieves a parallel mechanism could be found for the legislative authority.

"The whole system of government has to be close to the citizen," the premier said. "I personally think that the first link in this chain should be the administrative district (liwa) where a district governor would have a cabinet-like body to run the day-to-day affairs of that area. The governorate would be the second chain where also a governor would be aided by a cabinet-like committee," he added. "This would leave the central government in Amman the role of planning, drawing up strategy and policy making.

The legislative authority would also have a similar chain of bodies which are elected at the district, governorate and then the national level, the

prime minister said. Dr. Majali explained that the purpose of this process was to alleviate the pressure on the capital and to improve the Bureaucracy. "We want to reduce the pressure on Am-

He said that one could see the problem rising from having a centralised government hy looking at the traffic in the capital. "If we achieve this we would be saving hundreds of millions of dinars as well as

precious lives." His government, Dr. Majali said, has also plans to alleviate unemployment without further taxing the public sector with unnecessary employees. He believes that "industry and free-market investment is the

Reports from Cairo indicated that the negotiations had what PLO officials described

Asked when he planned to visit Palestinian territories expected to come under self-rule, Mr. Arafat said "soon." He did not give a date.

Also expected to be discus-

sed between the King and Mr. Arafat was the status of Jerusalem following Jordanian criticism that the Arab group at the United Nations, including the PLO, had mishandled the language of the resolution and opened the door for the U.S. to set a precedent by abstaining on parts of the resolution referring to Jerusalem.

After Arafat envoy Hakam Balawi hriefed him last week,

them into the occupied terri-

thousand other deportees." Mr. Husseini told reporters. Ahmad Deek had been a member of the unified command for the uprising when be was deported in 1988. Men such Mr. Deek and Marwan Barghouti, 35, a student nnion activist from the University of Bir Zeit are expected to fill leadership roles on the intermediary level before the

answer to unemployment." The government, he said, has found that public sector funds can and should be use

By Kathy Wilhelm The Associated Press

SHENZHEN, China - He's studied English at night and likes to call himself Jesse. The only son in a family of five children, Jesse left the farm at age 20 in search of a joh. Six years later, he has little to show for it: everything he owns is with him on a narrow, metal hunk bed at a television factory in Shenzhen, the booming Chinese development zone next to

Hong Kong.
There is his one suit, shiny and gray-green, hanging loosely on his skinny frame. There are a radio and some books, a few dishes, a box of

papers.
What's that brochure? It turns out Jesse spends his free time in direct sales for an American health-food company making a big push in southern China. That has given him ideas for getting out of the factory, he said, maybe even starting a business of his exact of his ex ness of his own. Jesse hasn't made much

money, but going back to the village is the farthest thing from his mind. "People look down on you

if you farm," he said. "Why did you Americans go west? Because there were more opportunities. It's just like that in Shenzhen. To go from a farm to a city factory, to go from peasant to worker, aren't the opportunities

ment grain quotas.

come a major factor in keep-ing China's economic growth and Canton.

More are always on the way, hitchhiking along highways or squeezing into rail cars. Ask why and the answer is uniform. There are no jobs at home. No one wants to

For the first three decades of Communist rule, the people stayed mainly where they population registration sys-

IN PURSUIT OF A BETTER LIFE: New arrivals from provinces of China wait outside Beijing's central train station (AFP photo) In South China, nothing keeps them down to the farm tem and travel controls. The controls relaxed There are at least 80 milenough in the 1980s to let peasants travel to cities for winter jobs, when the land was failow. Then, in the 1990s, the "peasant army" became a year-round occupa-

tion force.

"They do the jobs that are

dirty, tiring and dangerous," said Han Jun, a researcher at the Rural Development Insti-tute of the Chinese Academy

"City people don't just consider the income, they

also consider whether a job

has status," he said. "A city

woman doesn't want to wash

dishes" for a living.

Most migrants live as

cheaply as possible in the cities and send money home that spurs development in the

villages. In Liojiaguanfang village in Shandong Province, east-

ern China, a survey found the

average income was equiva-

lent to \$50 a year for families

and \$147 for those with some-

of Social Sciences.

lion Jesses across China, peasants who have left their villages in search of oppor-tunity. Jesse, who has a high school education, has better prospects than most, hut all share his ambition to create a life free from the tyranny of flood, drought and govern-

Since average rural incomes are less than one-third those of city dwellers, the migrants believe they have nothing to lose. Their cheap labour has be-

at 13 per cent annually for the last two years. They turn out the shirts, sneakers and toys so familiar on U.S. and European store shelves. They huild the office towers, hotels and highways that are transforming Beijing, Shanghai

one in the city.
Communities of migrants have grown up on the outskirts of major cities. Beijing's "Zhejiang Village" home to more than 100,000 migrants from Zhejiang Pro-vince just south of Shanghai, including many entire fami-

Now most urban construc-The Chen family is typical. Chen Chuanhao, 32, his wife, tion workers, garbage collectors, street sweepers, maids, bicycle repairmen, shoeshininfant son and two friends ers and popcorn vendors are share a small rented room. former peasants. So are most With two sewing machines, of the factory workers in such they churn out leather bomcoastal boomtowns as Shenber jackets and whatever else

is in fashion.
"We can make to order, we're fast, our prices are low," said Mr. Chen, who wears a beeper on his belt. The family's annual income, he said evasively, is "several tens of thousands of Yuan," thousands of U.S. dollars, or several times that of most permanent residents of

Beijing. Unlike permanent city residents, the migrants have no watchful neighbourhood committees to supervise their activities, their guests, their

"We are the Ziyou Pai" the free faction - Mr. Chen said. "We can come and go as we please.'

That makes city officials hlame rising crime rates on the migrants. Shanghai says they committed half the crimes reported there last

Authorities also say many migrants are having second and third habies, violating the government's one-childper-couple plan for controliing the population, now at I.2 hillion.

There are other social prohlems, many related to the migrants' exclusion from urban social services. Without a city bukou, or residency permit, a peasant migrant cannot send his children to school, get a telephone. ohtain a marriage license or, in many cases, medical treat-

The psychological press-ures on migrants are many. "Life on the farm is more secure than life here as a worker," said Zheng, 25, who left his village five months ago to work at a television factory in Shen-zhen. "Today I may have work and tomorrow I may be

out of a joh, have no food and nowhere to sleep."

The Yangcheng Evening News of Canton, a city with several million migrant workers, noted that many are women in their late teens or early 20s who are away from home they probably would

have married, hut many factory bosses forbid marriage. The result: rising numbers of single women giving hirth and having abortions.

Peasants who move to cities "are in an alien cultural sea," said Greg O'Leary, senior lecturer at the Centre for Labour Studies of the University of Adelaide, Au-

"It's like the experience of people in the industrial revolution: People hrought out of a work environment determined by the weather," he said. "It's an immense personal, psychological, sociological jolt. Crime is a natural response of people in those circumstances

The natural response of Chinese authorities bent on maintaining order is to send the migrants home.

Canton and Shenzhen, the most popular targets of the "peasant army," have inten-sified efforts to round up new arrivals. They've dismantled some migrant tent cities and cleared campers out of the train stations. But even after a month of

extra police patrols, Shenzhen authorities acknowledged they had only caught perhaps one of six unauthorised migrants and could not Economists and sociolog-

Colonial residue: blacks

ists say the government should stop trying to control the flow and instead reform the residency permit system instead so peasants can

ohtain city hukous. "If China excludes 80 per cent of its population from the urhanisation process, it can't really enter the ranks of developed countries," said Mr. Han of the Social Sciences Academy.

He argues that residency controls interfere with the flow of labour where it is needed.

While authorities debate reforming the huknu system, many cides are quietly doing so, spurred by the same profit motive that gave rise to the peasant invasion.

Beijing's Fengtai District, where "Zhejiang Village" is located, sells temporary permits to most of its migrants. reaping hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Pinggu County on Beijing's outskirts offers permanent residencies to people who in-vest 100,000 yuan (\$11,500).

That's good news for the Jesses, with their boundless energy and ambition.

The young man fingered his health-food brochures and said hopefully: "I heard that 20 per cent of American

ratroopers in a show of sup-

port to Cameroon, a former

colony embroiled in a border

dispute with Nigeria, which has strongly criticised the

French presence in its smaller

of Benin, employs a French-man as his personal

secretary. Ghana, the first African

nation to gain independence.

was among the first to replace

white civil servants. It did so

hy investing in education and

sending hundreds of students

10 study abroad.

But Western lending in-

stitutions, fearful of the cor-

ruption endemic in Africa,

often require their own man-agers as conditions of loans

and development grants.

Because of this, Ghana, a

former British colony that

hegan an ambitious restruc-

turing programme in 1983, found itself awash in consul-

tants overseeing the aid

mnney. The expatriates are

Lawmaker Kosi Kedem

told parliament in march that

25 per cent of the develop-

ment money Ghana receives goes for the salaries of ex-

"Some of them just come

paid in dollars.

patriates involved.

Nicephore Soglo, president

Bosnian war's 1st victim remembered

By Samir Koric Reuter

We were part of a crowd of about 20,000 people gathered in front of the parliament huilding on the morning of April 5, 1992 to protest against Serb barricades that

Many people will tell you oow that they saw the war coming then. But I didn't and [don't think Suada did

lations will also contribute positively to solving the unem-ployment problem in the King-In the 90-minute meeting, Dr. Majali responded to reports by the press that his government was targetting

The premier said that these reports were fabricated and that his government had a lot of respect for the role of professional associations but that

he also believed that they cannot continue to exercise the political role they had before political pluralism was sanctioned in the Kingdom. The role of a professional association, he said, was to protect me from people attacking me because of my profession, or to protect the

people from me because of misuse of my profession." "Associations entered politics in the past because there were no political parties," he said, adding that the law governing associations already guarantees against a political

the law." "Professional associations are in a similar situation to that of mosques," Dr. Majali said. Before the Islamic Action Front was sanctioned, mosques were being used for political purposes ... We stopped the misuse of mosques and the same should apply to professional associations ... other-

wise it would not be fair."

SARAJEVO — The first shots in the Bosnian war killed my good friend Suada

had sprnog up across

We were there because we thought there was still time to

change people's minds, to save Sarajevo and Bosnia as a place where Muslims, Serbs together as they had for 500

professional associations de-For Suada, a Muslim from the lovely city of Duhrovnik on Croaoa's Adriatic Coast, scribing them as "unconstituthe issue was more than ab-Her parents had been trapped in Dubrovnik since Octo-ber of 1991 when Serbs laid

siege to the city during their. war with Croatia. Refugees in their own town, they had been driven from their home by relentless Serh shelling and were living in an hotel. As a medical student sche-duled to graduate in May, Suada could easily have stayed away from the demonstration that day. She wasn't from Sarajevo. She wasn't even Bosnian.

make our way to one of the

But my friend was outraged by the division of a city she had come to know and love over five years of schooling, and her family was already paying a price for the role for the associations "and kind of ethnic hatred that lay we want to see them adhere to behind the barricades.

> It was not an angry crowd. I remember Suada standing there that morning with her hlonde hair and sparkling hlue eyes, laughiog. The people around us, more of them young, were good-humoured and eager to make their point in a peaceful way. Late in the morning several thousand of us decided to

of the Vrbanja hridge, behind the parliament tower. The idea was to cross the bridge to Grhavica, to show that the city still belonged to

barricades on the other side

the people — all the people. As the crowd began to move I lost track of Suada. I was about 50 metres from the hridge when a few shots, maybe five or six, rang out. Everybody began to run.

Once we got to cover be-hind a building I was incred-ibly angry. It had never occurred to me that someone would open fire on a group of

unarmed demonstrators. In a city where 65,000 people, most of them civilians. have since been killed or wounded by sniping and shelling I know that sounds

chest. She was dead on arrival at Kosevo Hospital, the first of many friends and relatives with war wounds hauled into that trauma clinic, which I have come to know as well as my own home.

Suada was huried on April 7 in a part of Sarajevo's hare cemetery reserved for famous people. Her parents, still trapped in Duhrovnik, couldn't come. About 500 mostly young people, fellow students and friends, attended the service.

The Serbs had shelled the old town for the first time the night before. We were all nervous because we were so close to their positions, hat nobody said anything. We were trying to be as hrave as

"(Suada) never had to queue for water or scrounge for firewood or scan daily war obituaries in the dreadful knowledge that among the dead would probably be an acquaintance ... The war ended for her at the very moment it began for us."

I went with friends to a cafe where someone said a woman had been wounded in the leg, but not seriously. I thought no more about it, nor

about Suada. When I got home in the early afternoon I could tell something was wrong with my mother. As I found out later, she had heard on the radio that Suada had been killed, hut couldn't bring her-

self to tell me. She kept suggesting that I telephone Suada's apartment. When I did, one of her cousins answered, crying.

I knew immediately what had happened. Suada had been in the front line of the demonstration, right where I should have expected her to be. Not because she was a political person, she wasn't. But because she was principled and her sense of right and wrong had been offended by the harricades.

The hullet hit her in the

Suada had been.

Strange to say, war still didn't seem inevitable. It was only a few days later that there seemed no turning hack, that we began to speak of Suada as the first person killed in the Bosnian war.

What had seemed a random act of violence, a great personal tragedy, slowly took shape in our minds as the first incident in a far greater drama: Europe's worst war in 50

Lion cemetery and the foothall pitch across from it filled with columns and rows of war dead. She never had to queue for water or scrounge for fire-

wood or scan daily war obi-

maries in the dreadful know-

Suada never lived to see

ledge that among the dead would probably be an acquaintance. The war ended for her at the very moment it began for the rest of us.

By Mark Fritz The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast Civil engineer Gerard Paillat has seen the future of this West African nation, and it has less room for well-paid while men like himself.

A decade ago, Mr. Paillat said, few people mioded when he joined an army of French people working in the Bureau of Large Projects, which huilds roads, buildings and dams in the Ivory Coast. No longer. The cost of the

outsiders and resentment by

increasingly better-trained citizens have compelled some African bureaucracies to re-duce the numbers of Western workers. "The resentment exists," said Mr. Paillat, 47. "Expatriates are expensive. You can find Ivorians who are not

as expensive who are able to do the work." He said the expatriates in his office average salaries of 1.5 million to 2 million African francs (\$2,500 to \$3,400) a month while Ivorians are paid 400,000 (\$670).

Ivory Coast, a former French colony, was pressured by its own people to emhark on "Ivorisaonn" a decade

Since then, the number of French workers has dropped from 3,900 to 670, said Patrick Roussel, head of mission for France's Ministry of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs. "The policy of Ivorisation is completely natural and understandable," he said.

"France has welcomed and encouraged such a policy."

Despite the decline in one of the last vestiges of colonialism, considerable resentment remains in many countries over the presence of foreigners not only in civil service, hut in husiness and

management of development

In Ivory Coast, many ministers still retain a "conseiller," or adviser, a shadow bureaucrat paid hy the upper echelon. Cyrille Ahiadife, a science professor and chemical engineer in Togo, said the out-siders earn salaries "way out of proportion to their qualifications."

"In the teaching field, France sends (expatriates) without experience who come to Africa and receive salaries five times higher than their African counterparts. who have the same professional training," he said.
Togo has about 3,000

French civil servants, but the ranks are thinning quickly because of "an ano-French sentiment in some circles." a French diplomat said, on condition of anonymity. Senegal had 870 French

people on the payroll in 1990,

but the foreign ministry said the number has fallen to less than 600. Some African officials say they must hire. Westerners because they lack experts in many fields. They also feel a need to hring talent from

the most impoverished continent in the world. "We have to interchange," said Ousmane Diop Blonden. manager of a "furniture comnany with Ivonian govern-

more successful economies to

ment contracts. But many Africans are rankled by the remaining influences, particularly in France's former African empire, where the French retain substantial economic in-

The showcase regional consortium in West Africa, the multinational airline Air Afrique, hired a white airline executive from France five years ago to turn it around. His contract was renewed in January despite a \$13.6 million loss and an attempt to replace him with a former prime minister of Niger.

Congo, unable to control a

to siphon loans given to the country," said Grumhled Kofi Deke, an engineering consultant. Such resentment is under-standable to Mr. Paillat, who

said the number of French workers in his department had fallen from 160 to 60 since he joined it in 1985 and is expected to teach 20 by year's end.

"The new generation is different than it was 10 or 15 years ago," he said. "You didn't have the competition you do now. It's really better for the country."

tire of white 'experts' guerrilla movement, signed a \$50 million contract with an Israeli firm this year to re-train elite military units. It French government to whisper the Western way of doing things into the ears of the asked the French army to retrain the regular army and nacional police force. In March, France sent pa-



A trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange gives a thumb-down as he watches the Dow drop more than 60 points in the opening minutes of Monday trading (AFP photo)

White House frets over market crash

WASHINGTON (R) - The collapse in stock and bond markets has set off alarm bells at the White House, but so far the administration has avoided the temptation of criticising the Federal Reserve (Fed) for the

Administration officials, from President Bill Clinton on down, have instead pinned the blame for the price rout on the markets themselves and have launched an all-out, and thus far unsuccessful, effort to convince skittish investors that

they are overreacting. "I think there was an overreaction in the markets when the Federal Reserve raised the short-term interest rates a little bit," Mr. Clinton said in Cleveland Monday. "I don't think there's any reason to be worried about the long-term health

of the economy. With old Wall Street hand Robert Rubin in charge of ecordinating economic policy, the administration is well aware that public criticism of the independent central bank

could end up backfiring. While Fed-bashing might succeed in convincing the central hank to hold down shortterm rates, it could drive the economically more important long-term rates higher on heightened fears of inflation.

Since the Fed raised shortterm interest rates for the first time in five years on Feb. 4, bond prices have plunged by more than 12 points, pushing the yield on the key 30-year issue to over 7.4 per cent, its highest level since Mr. Clinton took office in January last year.

The collapse in bond prices has dragged the stock market down in its wake, sending the blue chip Dow Jones industrial average skidding by 10 per cent in the last two months.

Although the stock market dive has grabbed most of the headlines, the administration seems more concerned about the steep rise in long-term interest rates.

thought for some time that the stock market is somewhat overvalued," Mr. Clinton said.

The administration is worried about the crash because it's been counting on low longterm interest rates to power the economy while it cuts the federal government hudget de-

"I think they're (interest rates) too high," Mr. Clinton said. "I think they'll come hack down.

The current truce between the administration and Fe over interest rates doesn't mean that the two don't have their differences.

Administration officials have privately been surprised by how quickly the Fed has raised short-term rates this year — by a total of a half percentage point. They also seem more willing than their Fed counterparts to accept a small rise in inflation in 1995 and 1996.

No one is quite sure what's pushing long-term rates higher. even the Fed, part of it though seems to stem from signs that the U.S. economy is growing faster than had been widely expected, pushing up demand for credit and fanning fears that inflation is on the

The administration has officially forecast growth this year of three per cent, hut some officials, including Mr. Rubin, believe that the economy may

expand by more than that, perhaps by 3½ per cent.

But it's the outlook for next year, and for 1990, that has the administration worried. If long-term rates stay high, administration officials fear that growth could be undercut just as Mr. Clinton is gearing up for another run at the pres-

If that looks like it might happen, then the administration might come out swinging against the Fed as it fights for its political life.

Russian finance ministry threatens to halt spending

Meanwhile, Russia's central

bank has started raids on the

country's mushrooming fore-

ign exchange offices to force

them to comply with regula-

Viktor Melnikov, head of

the central bank's currency

control and regulation depart-

ment, told Reuters the clean-

up was launched because up to

a third of exchange offices in

Russia could be operting with-

Walking into such offices,

clients felt more like they were

facing a gang of thugs than a proper exchange husiness, he

"Starting from April 1, we have started launching regular raids on exchange offices with

the help of law-enforcement bodies," Mr. Melnikov said.

want to upgrade the level of services delivered by exchange

offices, needless to say, if you want to change some dollars in

Moscow, it's a risky affair and

you are never safe when left

alone with those 'new business-

men' who look more like cri-

immediate differences between

London and the Russian capit-

The central hank has aiready

checked the accounts of about

900 exchange offices in Mos-

cow opened by some 101 com-

mercial hanks, Mr. Melinkov

said. Of these, 165 offices did

not correspond to "civilised standards." Criminal investiga-

tions were launched against 14

"First, we are going to put our Moscow in order, then we

will use our experience in all

regions of Russia to bring the

system of exchange offices into line with Western standards,"

This is how you tell the

minals," he added.

al," he pointed out.

of them, be added.

he explained.

"We, as the central bank,

out official permission.

MOSCOW (R) - The Russian finance ministry threatened Tuesday to stop all government financing, including President Boris Yeltsin's salary, after parliament refused to approve a temporary spending

The Federation Council, the upper chamber, failed to approve a law passed by the lower house 10 days ago on state spending in the second quarter of 1994.

The law, proposed by the government, would allow the functions of state to continue until a proper hudget is approved. The council voted in favour by 82-49, seven votes short of the 89 needed to

approve the law.

The upper chamber is made up of regional representatives who apparently objected to the law's restrictions on subsidies to the regions. Deputies voted to set up a conciliation commission with the lower house, the Duma, to resolve the mat-

But Sergei Alexashenko a deputy finance minister, announced that all financing through the central bank

would cease immediately.
"From this minute, the finance minsitry is halting all work on the budget," he told the chamber. "Tomorrow we will send letters to the central bank asking it to stop all opera-tions, including salaries for the president and the state appar-This would apparently in-

clude financing for parliament. Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeiko urged deputies to pass the law saying its rejection would threaten the normal functioning of the chamber, which had already run up four billion roubles (\$2.3 million) in debts.

Turkey's premier unveils crucial austerity package

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller unveiled a crucial economic package to rescue the trouhled-economy including one-off taxes, the elosure of loss-making state firms and thousands of job losses.

"We will not stop the economy. An export-hased growth will continue." Ms. Ciller told a news conference.

The programme was designed to lower inflation, stabilise the battered Turkish lira, boost exports and narrow huge public deficits, Ms. Ciller

"If we don't take these measures, inflation will surge over 100 per cent and we will he heading towards a Latin American experience with 2,000 per cent inflation," Ms. Ciller said. Turkey will set up fiscal and

monetary targets for three-monthly periods. Ms. Ciller said the quarterly budget de-ficit would be reduced to nine trillion lira (\$295 million) from an earalier target figure of 47.6 trillion (\$1.5 hillion). The government raised

prices of many state monopoly goods including petrol, tobacco, alcohol, sugar and fertiliser by op to 100 per cent to raise public funds. Ms. Ciller said an expected

decline in domestic demand for such goods as a result of the measures would deter producers from raising prices further. She said the central bank would be freed gradually from the burden of financing the hudget deficit.

The government will close down some unprofitable state enterprises including coal mines and an iron and steel factory. It will also speed up privatisation, which is expected to raise \$3.5 billion in revenue this year.

A low-rate, one-off tax would be charged on net assets of all income and corporate tax. payers, on luxury cars and indi-viduals who own more than one property. Ms. Ciller said the measures

would belp Turkey achieve its



aim for a customs union with the European Union next year. "An improvement in the Turkish economy will be seen in the second half of 1994. Inflation will drop sharply and economic halance will be rees-tablished," she said.

Financial market volatility seen aiding U.S. oil prices

NEW YORK (R) - U.S. oil prices, the ugly duckling of commodities the last 12 months, may benefit from renewed attention from influential managed funds that scored poor results in stocks and other tools in the first quarter.

That was the explanation behind crude's rally Monday of \$1 a barrel, or seven per cent, at a time when OPEC is pumping too much oil and the U.S. stock market is crumhling.

"I think the funds have turned bullish on oil," after being cautious on the crude market during a year-long bear market, said Morris Greenherg, oil analyst at Lehman Brothers.

Crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) for May delivery settled \$1 higher at \$15.79, a two-month high, adding to a 41-cent rise Thursday. NYMEX was closed Friday

and London's International Petroleum Exchange shut Friday and Monday.

Meanwhile, the Commodity

Research Bureau's index of 21 futures, a key inflation indicator, fell sharply Monday. Monday explosive oil rally surprised many traders. OPEC

decided 10 days ago to keep its daily output ceiling of 24.52 million harrels until year's end, which pushed crude down \$1.05 last week on views that was too much oil for spring.

Gasoline and heating oil rose about two cents a gallon and may heating oil soared 2.10 cents to 46.17 cents. Mr. Greenberg said traders

may have seen a huying opportunity after crude held its fiveyear low of \$13,75 last week, and prices tend to post a bottom in January and in March or April.

'The whole derivatives market was shaken up because of

wild moves in silver, beans and bonds and others," said Bill Billinga, NYMEX trading director at Phillips Petroleum P.N.

He said derivatives traders were likely squaring positions and initiating new ones, significantly affecting price action. Key technical indicators likely drew in the funds as well.

Victor YU, a trader at the Nikkham Energy Group in New York, said May crude oil traded above its 20, 40 and 100 day moving averages. "Crude crossed some serious moving averages and a lot of technical funds follow those."

Still, several traders were scratching their heads and said supply and demand do not justify further gains from here.

"I think oil prices will move ahead later in the year but we're not there yet," said John Hervey, vice president in the research department at Donaldson, Lufkin Jenrette. He said crude oil prices were justified staying in a \$14-\$15 range, with any level above that being "premature."

Unscramble these four Jumbles

lour ordinary words.

INCCY

REVNY

Telephone, post rates rise sharply in Iran TEHRAN (R) — Postal rates

have risen by up to 900 per cent and telephone charges by 20-40 per cent in Iran since last month, newspapers reported Monday.
The hefty rate increases

were the first reported in the Iranian new year which started on March 21 after parliament voted down proposed rises in fuel and electricity prices.

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Resalat newspaper said postal rates had risen by up to 900 per cent. A city letter, for instance, would now require 60 rials' (\$0.03) worth of stamps, six times more than before. Kayhan newspaper said tele-

phone charges had risen by 20 per cent for private clients, 30 per cent for government offices .: and 40 per cent for businesses. The state-owned Iran Tele-

communication Company said proceeds from telephone charge rises would be spent on expanding the rural telecommunication network, Tehran radio reported.

cash Israeli banks rake in the

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's four main commercial banks, on the path to private ownership this year, left potential buyers an impressive showing of black

Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank Ltd and United Mizrahi Bank — all owned by the govern-ment after a bank shares scandal in 1983 - announced improved profits in annual reports published last week. Along with the results came

forecasts about Israeli economic growth, which slumped to a still respectable 3.5 per cent in 1993 after a 6.6 per cent increase in 1992 fuelled by a construction boom for a flood of immigration from the former Soviet Union.

At the high end, Bank Hapoalim predicted growth could reach six per cent in 1994, but Mizrahi, noting a

recent slump on the Tel Aviv Stock Market, forecast three to four per cent growth. Leumi and Discount took the middle

Israeli banks are big players on the stock market, selling and managing mutual and provident funds, acting as brokers for clients and making loans for the purpose of huying

"The vibrancy (in 1993) of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange raised significantly the hanks' income from commissions, management fees and other share-related activities," capital markets writer Yehuda Sharoni said in the Maariv newspaper.

Hapoalim reported the highest profits of any of the hanks in 1993 — 374 million shekels (\$125 million), a rise of 36.3

It attributed the increase to higher operating income from capital market activities and a 22.8 per cent drop in doubtful debt provisions. Net return on equity was 8.8 per cent. Leumi's net profit climbed

58.1 per cent, to 370.3 million shekels (\$123.85 million). Provision for donbtful debt was 448 million shekels in 1993 compared with 637 million sbekels the previous year. Net return on equity was 8.5 per cent.

Discount said 1993 consolidated net income rose 26.5 per cent to 204.6 million shekels (\$68.43 million). Provision for had deht was 106 million shekels against 144 million in 1992. It had a net return on equity of 8.0 per cent.

Net profit rose 8.9 per cent

to 135.1 million shekels (\$45.18 million) at Mizrahi.

climbed 5.9 per cent to 144.4 million shekels. Net return on equity was 14.1 per cent. A decade ago, the banks' manipulation of their own

sbares on the Tel Aviv market led to the crash of 1983 and a \$9 billion government bailout that left the four main commercial banks in state hands. The government now wants to casb in its shares. At the

nning of the year, it pub lisbed an international tender for a controlling stake of up to 20 per cent of Leumi. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has said a similar ten-

der for Hapoalim would be published this year after a decision is made on which hid to accept for Leumi.

A sell-off of Discount is ex-pected to follow, and the suitability of potential buyers of Mizrahi is being examined.

per cent over the previous Provision for doubtful debt Gulf Arabs propose pooling aircraft maintenance

MANAMA (R) - Gulf Arah states are floating the idea of a joint holding firm to take over maintenance of their civil aircraft, Kuwait Airways Corp. (KAC) Chairman Ahmad Hamad Al Mishari said Tues-

day. Sheikh Mishari told reporters that letters had been sent to heads of airlines in the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

The proposal was part of joint efforts by the GCC, grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Un-

ited Arah Emirates and Oman, to cut costs and increase airline

With a proliferation of air-lines up and down the Gulf, the idea is to avoid duplication of facilities at each airport.

In addition to the three long-operating airlines KAC, Saudia and Gulf Air, three other airlines have been set up in recent years - Dubai's Emirates, Qatar Airways and Oman Air.

It was not immediately clear

what reaction the more established airlines would have to such a plan and Sheikh Mishari himself did not say whether he favoured it.

Referring to his own com-pany, he said he expected profits to drop to between \$8 million and \$10 million in 1994 from \$18 million in 1993 be-

cause of investment needed after 1raq's 1990-91 occupa-

KAC was investing \$1.4 billion to huy new aircraft including 15 Airhus planes and three Boeings of which 11 Airbuses had already been delivered in 1992 and 1993, he said. The rest will be delivered by 1995.

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your desire to add to your in-come should be tempered with a special watchfulness toward tricky individuals that could bring you more trouble than they

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your duties well and plan how to execute them more efficiently. Follow your hunches which are accurate at this time.

YOUR SUCCESS.

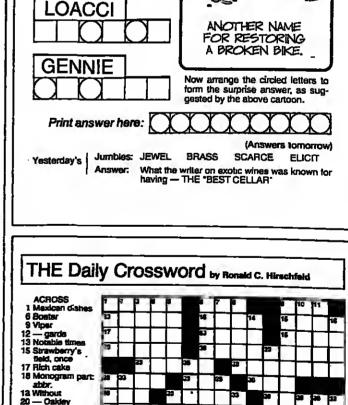
can make an excellent impression on others at this time especially to those in authority. . VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Discuss routine affairs with an expert and get valuable suggestions you need. Take no risks with your reputation now if you can help it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) Go to financial expert and gain the knowledge and backing you need. Show more devotion to family members and you will have much happiness. SCORPIO: (October 23 to desire in a positive way and get excellent results. Come to a better understanding with the one you love and everything will be

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have fine ideas that should be put in opera-tion without delay. Social acti-vites can bring happiness in the evening to all those around you. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look to e clever friend for assistance in gaining a personal aim. Study every angle of a plan you have in mind on a new project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 10 Representative 19) Let higher-ups know about a special talent you have. Be sure to keep promises you have made and be logical in their execution.

20) Schedule your activities well so you can easily gain your aims. Remove stumbling blocks in the path of your progress to your



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

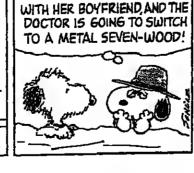
Peanuts



HOW CAN WE KNOW IF OUR







THE NURSE IS HAVING TROUBLE

Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 1994

are worth. Stick with the regular rules.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be alert in the morning and avoid making coastly errors. You must practise more thrift now to have the security you want for

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find a more sensible method for handling routine duries. Be more diplomatic when dealing with outsiders today and you will be weli known.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take care of husiness matters early in the day so you'l have time for social activities later. Think constructively on how to get done all you are told LEO: (July 22 to August 21).

and take steps to improve it. You

Study a situation at home well

PISCES: (February 20 to March

64 "To tetch — of water" 65 "— Miserables 66 Call for help 87 Units of force

37 Scon 39 Winter 40 Hack



24 Ms Raine 26 Eats late 27 Premed subj. 29 Tendency 32 Stimulus



ndern Penanceal Kreces | 198.566 | \$50.000 | 190.000 | 7.540 | 4.600 | 4.500 | 2.400 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.800 819,317

Jordan Times Financial



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5.	Dollar	įm.	Internation	لد	Markets		
				_		Mars	·

Сигтевсу	New York Close	Tokyo Close Date 5/4/94
Sterling Pound	1.4665	1.4648
Dentsche Mark	1.6955	1.6947
Swiss Franc	1.4250	1.4275
French Franç	5.7958	5.7990**
Japanese Yen	103,15	102.95
European Curreny Unit	1.1370	1.1365**
USD Per STG		*

Currency) MIH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	t2 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.3750	3.8125	4.1250	4-6250
Sterilog Pound	5.0000	5.1250	5.2500	5.5000
Deutsche Mark	5.5000.	5.4375	5.3750	5.1875
Swiss Fränc	3.9375	3.9375	3.8750	3.8125
French Franc	6.0000	6.0000	5.9375	5.8125
Japanese Yen	2.0000	2.0000	2_0625	2.1875
European Currency Unit	6.2500	6.1200	6.0000	5.9300

1 USD/Oz JD/O
5.61 0.1

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7020	0.7040
Sterling Pound	1.0263	1.0314
Degische Mark	0.4136	0.4157
Swiss Franc	0.4919	0.4944
French Franc	0.1210	0.1216
Japanese Yen ⁴	0.6814	0.6848
Dutch Guilder	0.3683	0:3701
Swedish Krona	****	****
Italian Lira*	0.0428	0.0430
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Other Currencies	Date: 5/4/1994		
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8460	1.8600	
Lebenese Lira*	0.040475	0.041755	
Saudi Riyal	0.7869	0.1880	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3600	
Qatari Riyai	0.1905	0.1915	
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100	
Omani Riyal	1.8040	1_8200	
UAE Dirham	0.1905	0.1915	
Greek Drachma*	0.2635	0-3275	
Cyprict Pound	1.2935	1.3940	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

\$387,40/387.90

1 I	3
.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3939/49
	1.6918/28
	1.9006/16
	1.4225/35
	34:85/89
	-5.7830/80
	1632.8/4.3
	103.10/20
	7.9250/50
	7.3510/60
:	6.6400/50
	\$1.4667/77
ne stering	31.400\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\

One ounce of gold

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Premier rallies Kuwait for belt-tightening

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's prime minister has called on one of the world's most affluent societies to accept an unaccustomed bout of belttightening to tackle a Gulf war-

inflated budget deficit.
"Our financial difficulties require cuts in expenditure and public spending," the prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabaha, said in a televised speech Monday even-

ing.
The prime minister, in his first address to the nation since the 1991 Gulf war, said sacrifices from the 1.5 million population would be rewarded and were needed to ensure the prosperity of future genera-

"We have enjoyed financial abundance for so long: The time has come for us to cooperate in shouldering the burden of financial difficulty," he said in a state of the nation address

Monday evening.

"So verily with every difficulty there is relief," he said,
quoting a verse from the
Koran.

Income tax is unknown in the emirate, once the world's wealthiest country on a per capita basis. Residents enjoy a generous welfare state, free or minimal cost public services. citizens get subsidised housing and can expect a government job for life but may retire in middle age on full pension.

However low oil prices and war-related expenditure and oilfield rebabilitation that halved the government's foreign reserves have fuelled a budget deficit equivalent to around a fifth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product.

Officials expect the state deficit to substantially exceed the projected 1.2 billion dinars (\$4 billion) in 1993/94 and say the gap will grow steadily throughout the decade if expenditure cuts are not introduced

Sheikh Saad said he was planning a cabinet reshuffle but gave no details. He said hopefully within a month officials would work out the new economic reforms. He gave few details but said

the reforms would include "squeezing" state spending and continued privatisation that would include the stateowned oil sector. He reiterated the government was studying whether to give foreigners a role in the oil sector, source of

90 per cent of export earnings. Officials have also recommended reducing subsidies on gasoline, and introducing or raising fees for a range of welfare state benefits --- potentially unpopular measures that some MPS have vowed they

Whatever measures are taken to deal with this financial difficulty, they must be equitable," he said. "Care will be taken to avoid burdening the low income groups."

"I am confident that Kuwaiti capital will not be slack at undertaking its duty in enhancing our economy and serving our society and homeland, Sheikh Saad said.

Foreign investment in Moscow rises 15%

CASABLANCA (R) - Private foreign investment in Morocco iast year rose by 15.2 per cent to 4,950 million dirhams (\$528 million), the Moroccan General Economic Confederation (CGEM) said in its latest bulletin.

The CGEM which represents husinessmen added that during 1993 new foreign investment projects approved by the government declined by 35 per cent to 1,403 million dirhams (\$150 million).

A spokesman said the first figures concerned effective investments and the second proiects which have yet to be carried out.

In its annual review of the economy, the CGEM said foreign exchange reserves had risen by the end of last year by 17 per cent to 36,901 million dirhams, or nearly \$4 hillion, equivalent to seven months im-

Revenue from tourism fell hy two per cent to 11,470 million dirhams (\$1,22 billion) and remittances by emigrant workers fell by 1.6 per cent to 18,243 million dirhams (\$1.96 hillion).

The CGEM added that a bumper cerea! harvest was expected this season, after two years of drought, and "the possibility of double-digit growth cannot be excluded."

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Saudi stock market falls prey to lower oil price

stocks lost their glitter over the past year, depressed with the rest of the Saudi economy by lower oil prices, but some brokers believe the falls have hit bottom and should be steady from now on.

After an unprecedented boom that more than doubled the value of the Saudi market from pre-Gutf war levels, stock prices have fallen by 25 per cent in the past year and stood at 152.48 points at the end of the last reporting week.

Economists and traders were quick to say the new stock price falls did not amount to a crash but it is at least a "sharp correction" as one expert put it, noting the official market index was 15 per cent below the 179.33 at the start of the

"Things aren't tooking very good," one market source in the kingdom commented. There is a general feeling of insecurity about the economic environment." Brokers took encourage-

ment that prices did improve somewhat in the early part of this week which started Saturday, with serious buyers investing substantial volumes.

The index reached an April 1992 peak of 233 from 109 at the end of 1989 before falls prompted by the Gulf war. "People are trading at the lower prices. They're still huying and selling. I take that

as a good sign," a broker said.

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factor was last year's sudden fall by about one-third in the price of oil, which has pinched government coffers, forced a cut of about 20 per cent in this year's budget and caused delays in government payments. "This drop in oil prices took

everybody by surprises." an analyst commented.

In addition, interest rates are edging back up - providinvestors and making it more expensive for husinesses to DOLLOW.

"We have a tight fiscal pobcy with a tight monetary policy at the same time," Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank in Jeddah, told an economic forum last week while noting that the budget cuts reflected necessary realism.

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would be desirable Proficiency in Arabic and working knowledge of English is

Interested candidates should sand their CVs before the 9th of April to the following address:

> Attn: National Coordinator Azraq Project P.O.Box (6354) Amman - Jordan Fax: 847411

Or to the headquarters of the project stationed at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature,

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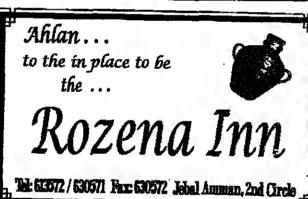
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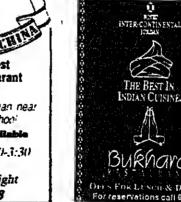
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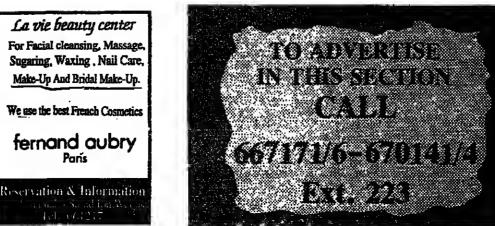






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Suit blocks dead

EUGENE, Ore (R) - Oregon poet Donal Eugene Russell won't get bis last wish - to be

skinned so that his hide could

be used as cover for a volume

of bis poetry. His widow,

Rachel Barton-Russell, settled

a lawsuit hrought by the state

of Oregon, agreeing to have

her late husband cremated.

Russell, who died in February

at the age of 62, left instruc-

tions in his will that the skin

from his body was to be re-

moved and tanned and then

used to bind a volume of his

works. Mrs. Barton-Russell, a

33-year-old law student at the

University of Oregon, was pre-

pared to honour the terms of

the will by letting some friends

and expert animal skinners re-

move the skin from the corpse

which had been kept in a freez-

er. "He was very fond of his

skin. He felt like it was one of

his better attributes, and he real-ly wanted it used this way," she

told reporters last week after

the state went to court to block

the action. The state mortuary

and cemetery board objected

and filed suit. According to a

statement released by both

sides, "the controversial clause

in the will not be fulfilled" and

Mrs. Barton-Russell "will pro-

vide for the cremation of Don-

al Russell's remains." Mr.

Russell died in February on his

way to a doctor's appointment.

poet's wish to be skinned

50 reported killed as fighting rages around Bosnian enclave

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serh and Muslim forces clashed anew around Gorazde Tuesday as the Serb assault on the eastern Bosnian town went into its second week.

The Serh artillery and tank attack on the Muslim-led Bosnian government enclave which began on March 29 has killed 49 people and wounded 21g, most of them civilians, a United Nations spokesman

"The situation on the southern front is getting worse," a radio operator in Gorazde said in Sarajevo Radio. "The noose around Gorazde is tightening."

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said the casualty toll had been confirmed by two U.N. doctors working at Gorazde's main hospital. Several dozen wounded needed to he evacuated for proper treatment.

The latest fighting followed a report Monday from Sarajevo Radio that Serh forces had broken through the front line at one point. The Bosnian Serh News Agency said Tuesday that "defeated" Muslim forces were withdrawing in disarray along a key

Zulu

ends

march in

S. Africa

peacefully

EMPANGENI, South Africa (R) — About 10,000 Zulu royalists marched peacefully

through Empangeni in north-

ern Natal Tuesday despite

fears of a confrontation with

security forces over emergency

Police said there had been

no reports of violent incidents.

Zulus, many armed with fighting sticks, spears and

other weapons, marched to a

cluster of churches near the

Empangeni town centre where

à memorandum was presented

to an Independent Electoral

Police said they would in-

vestigate charges of contraven-

non of emergency regulations

against organisers of the

march, which was to demons-

trate support for Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's call for a

sovercign state in post-

Police spokeswoman Major

Margaret Krugger told Reuters

police had avoided trying to

disarm marchers because this

could have caused bloodshed.

imposed a state of emergency

in Natal and adjoining Kwazu-

iu black homeland last Thurs-

day to halt endemic political

violence and prepare for free

and fair elections in the coun-

try's first all-race poll later this

· Soldiers with flak jackets

and automatic rifles stood

guard on street corners in

Empangeni, a spread-out cen-

tre for husiness and light indus-

iry 200 kilometres north of

Armoured vehicles were

positioned at key points in the town of about 25,000 people,

set in green hills 20 kilometres

west of Richards Bay, South

Africa's main coal exporting

The army's regular 121 Battalion, made up of ethnic

The local offices of Nelson

Mandela's African National

Congress (ANC) was cordoned

More than 10,000 people

have died during the past 10 years in political violence in

Kwazulu-Natal, mainly involv-

ing Zulu supporters of the ANC and the rival Inkatha.

A Zulu march in Johannes-

burg last week turned into a

bloodbath with more than 50

Hundreds of Zulu royalists

waving fighting sticks and

shields jogged chanting around

the starting point for Tuesday's

march as a police helicopter

Police Major Margaret Kru-

ger had earlier said carrying

traditional weapons con-

travened emergency regula-

"There is definitely no per-

mission granted to allow these.

people to carry these weapons.

the situation develops. We do

not want to forcibly disarm

them if it is too dangerous to

disarm them. We don't want to

provoke violence," Maj. Kru-

ger told reporters.

We will endeavour to see how

Zulus, is hased nearhy.

off with razor wire.

people killed.

clattered overhead.

month.

Durban.

President F.W. De Klerk

apartheid South Africa.

Commission officials.

regulations in the region.

A U.N. military spokesman reported Serh artillery and tank bombardments in parts of the Gorazde pocket Monday about said there was no evidence the Serbs had gained significant ground.

Major Roh Annink told a news conference in Sarajevo Bosnian Serh forces were concentrating their attack on routes going into Gorazde from the east.

Sarajevo Radio said 24 people were wounded and an unknown number killed in a Serh assault on Gorazde overnight — two years to the day after the first victim of the war in Bosnia was killed in nearby

The Yugoslav News Agency. Tanjug quoted Bosnian Serb army sources as saying 100 Muslim soldiers were believed

Neither account could be independently verified as the latest U.N. casualty toll only

went up to Monday evening.

Tanjug said the Muslim-led
Bosnian army had launched desperate attacks on all parts of the front," while Muslimcontrolled Sarajevo Radio said parts of the city were being destroyed by Serh Howitzers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Atomic power workers picket in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Carrying signs saying "pay your debts," more than 150 workers representing all nine of Russia's nuclear power plants picketed outside the Russian White

House Tuesday to demand their unpaid wages. Russia's

nuclear plants, which produce 12 per cent of the country's

electricity, are short on both money and fuel and have not paid some employees for three months. Businesses and individual

consumers across the nation are partly to hlame, because many are not paying their hills on time. The government no

longer makes up the shortfall. Regulatory officials and environmentalists worry that maintenance is being neglected

and safety is declining, especially at Chernobyl-type reactors. Nuclear workers have not walked off their jobs for safety

reasons, but they have raised their voices in increasingly loud

protests in recent weeks. "We don't have a right to strike, but

we do have a right to meet with the president" said a sign

carried Tuesday hy one demonstrator in front of the White

House, the 19-story white marble building that formerly

housed the parliament and is now government headquarters.

Russian pilot 'was teaching kids to fiy'.

MOSCOW (R) - A Russian government commission investi-

gating the crash of an Airbus 310 in which 75 people were killed said Tuesday one of the crew was teaching his children

to pilot the plane minutes before it crashed. A commission

statement did not say directly that this was the reason for the

March 23 crash in Siberia. The statement, read to Keuters

over the telephone, said the flight recorders showed that the

scheduled Aeroflot flight from Moscow to Hong Kong was

proceeding without any problems until it was passing over the

Siberian city of Novokuznetsk. It then said: "It was estab-

lished that present in the cockpit were a son and a daughter of

a crew member who, in violation of flight rules, was

demonstrating and explaining to them the principles of

piloting a plane. Four minutes after passing Novokuznetsk the

plane diverted to the right more than it should which resulted

in a sharp loss of altitude and collision with the ground." The

flight recorders were examined in France before being shipped

hack to Russia. The statement was reporting preliminary

HANOI (R) - A U.S. activist trying to find living American

prisoners of war left Vietnam Tuesday without being allowed

to visit every facility he wanted to see. Former Republican

congressman Billy Hendon from McLean. Virginia, said he

was disappointed about the way he had been treated.

"Vietnam says we can go anywhere we want. It is not true," he

told Reuters hy telephone from Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport

before catching a flight to Hong Kong. "They say we can meet

anybody we need. It is also not true. And they say we can stay

as long as we want... hut they asked me to leave the country...

I'm very disappointed," he said. Vietnamese officials said Mr.

Hendon was leaving after his visa, already extended for a

week, expired Monday night. The Foreign Ministry said he

had been allowed to visit three camps he had asked to see in

Thanh Hoa, Ha Nam Ninh and Ha Tay provinces. "Regren-

ably, there were some news reports different from reality

which obviously run counter to the Vietnamese side's goodwill

cooperation offered to him," a ministry spokesman said. Mr. Hendon and two associates, Beth Stewart, head of the PoW

U.S. PoW activist leaves Vietnam

Tanjug said the Muslim forces had fired more than 1,000 mortar rounds at Serh positions over the past seven

The United Nations Monday announced plans to send additional military observers im-mediately to Gorazde and 1,000 Ukrainian peacekeeping troops within the next week or

The British U.N. commander for Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, said he would visit the area

U.N. sources said the Serbs had refused him permission hut he still planned to make Gen. Rose has said he

doubted the Serbs were able to capture Gorazde, where 65,000 people are trapped. The Serbs Monday blocked plans to send in four more

military observers to join an existing four-man team. Apart from a few aid workers and doctors, they are the only in-ternational presence in Gorazde, supposedly a U.N. "safe haven."

Aid officials said the Serbs had refused entry to U.N. and Red Cross convoys Monday. The last U.S. aid convoy en-

tered Gorazde on March 22, a week before the latest Serh assault, hut Mr. Janowski said food stocks were adequate for

the time being.
"Those supplies are going to be running out soon and we desperately want more convoy," said Ron Redmond, spokesman in Geneva for the

In northern Bosnia, the Red Cross was in talks with Bosnian Serb authorities following the postponement of its plan to evacuate thousands of non-Serbs from the area.

The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) called off the operation after Serb leader Radovan Karadzic set a limit on the number he would allow to leave.
The ICRC had planned to

evacuate thousands of non-Serbs after reports up to 20 Muslims and Croats had been killed in a new outhreak of "ethnic cleansing," a policy of driving out minorities by murder or terror.

Meanwhile Romania ignored Serhian President Slobodan Milosevic's international pariah status Tuesday and gave him a red carpet welcome on a state visit arranged hastily to assess peace prospects in former Yugoslavia.

Rutskoi launches campaign to get rid of Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, freed from prison under a parliamentary amnesty, launched a new campaign Tuesday to remove President Boris Yeltsin and his government from office.

In an interview in the Communist newspaper Pravda, Mr. Rntskoi fiercely attacked the president and ruled out any possibility of an end to confrontation as long as Mr. Yeltsin remained in office:

"That is why it is necessary to stop playing with consensus or agreements and get down to work - to change the authorities by legal methods." It was Mr. Rutskoi's tongh-

est attack since he and other under a parliamentary amnesty

Mr. Rutskoi lannched the uprising against what he said was an illegal dictatorship by calling on armed supporters to storm the Moscow mayor's office and main television cen-

Mr. Yeltsin, some members of parliament and public groupings are working on a hope will provide for a political

South Koreans polled in a survey released Tuesday helieve their government should use dialogue and persuasion rather than force to end the dispute over North Korea's nuclear In a telephone poll of 1,000 people conducted by media research, 68.2 per cent said the

government should continue to rely on dialogue while 31 per

"There should be no illusions about the possibility of any changes for the better under this president and this

leaders of the armed revolt against Mr. Yeltsin last October were released from prison

Mr. Rntskoi, 46, said he was not going to leave politics and was absolutely unrepentant over his role in the October bloodshed, laying all the hlame on Mr. Yeltsin.

memorandum on civic accord" in Russia, which they



near Amsterdam airport (AFP photo)

media as saying the airliner down when the pilot decided to break off his attempted landing

The passeogers iocluded

nine Britons and two Ger-

mans. The crew were all

reported seriously injured.
Airport authorities said the

dead pilot's body would be

examined to determine

whether a sudden illness had

Maij-Weggen said both the

flight data recorder and cock-

Transport Minister Hanja

contributed to the crash.

S. Koreans urge dialogue over nuclear issue

dealt with more strongly.

cent said the issue should be

Also in the survey, 74.4 per cent described President Kim Young-Sam's trips to China

and Japan as a success while

22.2 per cent said they were

South Korea and its Western

allies fear Stalinist North Korea is close to building a

nuclear bomb. It denies the

Experts seek cause of Dutch crash

and to climb again.

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch experts probing the crash landing of a Royal Dutch KLM short-haul airliner near Am-sterdam's Schiphol Airport in which three people died, said Tuesday engine failure was unlikely to have been the sole

The Swedish-huilt twin turbopro Saah 340B, which had just taken off Mnnday afternoon for a cityhopper service flight to the Welsh city of Cardiff with 21 passengers and three crew aboard, ploughed into a muddy field metres from the runway as it tried to return after developing engine trou-ble over the North Sea.

Aviation experts said the model of airliner involved should normally have had no problem in landing on one engine. Benno Baksteen, head of

pit voice recorder had been the Dutch Pilots' Association, recovered and she expected the crash investigation to be said: "We must consider that engine failure was not the only completed quickly. reason for the crash."

SEOUL (R) - A majority of

"I think it will be a matter of An unnamed air traffic cona few months rather than a troller was quoted in the Dutch

A Transport Ministry spokesman said the crash investigation would be carried out by an independent preliminary investigator, adding that the wreckage of the aircraft was likely to be removed from the crash site Tuesday.

A four-mao team from Swedish aircraft-maker Saab Two of the dead have been named as flight Captain Gerrit Lievaart and a British woman, arrived at Schipbol late Mon-day to help the investigation. Laura Samuel, in her mid-40s. A Saah spokesman said this was the first time 2 Saab 340 The third, not yet officially identified, was reported to be a man from Singapore. had been in an accident involving injury or loss of life. KLM has 12 of the Saah Thirteen other people were

340Bs in its short-haul fleet. Poor weather on Easter Monday has also been ruled out as a likely cause of the crash. A KLM spokesman said that at the time the plane came down, winds had dropped and

the runway was dry.

The aircraft was approaching the runway when it veered to the right, clipped the ground with its wing and skidded into a field, where it

calling for inspections.

Woman born with no vagina gives birth to baby exploded on impact. The fire burned out quickly.

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese woman born without a vagina bad a baby 14 years after undergoing corrective surgery, the doctor who led the operacharge but refuses fully to open tion said. Professor Kihyoe its nuclear sites to international Ichinoe told Reuters the baby inspectors despite a U.N. girl was born by caesarean Security Council statement section in 1990. Apparently the first from a mother who had Mr. Kim returned last week undergone such vaginal confrom his trip, which was dominated by talks about the struction. Doctors had delayed making the case public because nuclear issue. China, the the woman's husband had not North's last major ally, stresses known about the surgery and dialogue rather than sanctions they feared the news might to persuade Pyongyang to prove too big a shock, he said, "We think enough time has now elapsed to allow us safely to make our report public, said Prof. Ichinoe, now professor emeritus of Hokkaido University in northern Japan. He plans to report on the case at a medical conference in Tokyo on April 12. The woman, now 32, bad the reconstructive surgery at Wakayama Medical College in central Japan when she was 14. Doctors used a new developed technique involving the implantation of a synthetic mould into the patient's body. Prof. Ichinoe said it was believed about one in 5,000

women worldwide are born

thwarts conscript's

BANGKOK (R) - A. Thai

military board turned down

one eager conscript when he

miniskirt and low-cut top,

newspapers reported Tuesday.

The panel discovered that

although Wanasevi Sribaanrai.

21, was legally a man he had

undergone a sex-change opera-

tion. The ahject Wanasevi complained: "My dreams of

serving the country have been dashed," The Nation newspap-

er reported. All Thai men are

liable to be drafted from the

turned up for an interview in a

without a vagina.

Sex change

army dreams

At least 7 people involved in Mexico slaying

MEXICO CITY (R) — At least seven people rook part in a conspiracy in the assassination of Mexican ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio last month, government-appointed special investigator said Mon-

Five people are currently under arrest and police are searching for two other unidentified men, special investigator Miguel Montes said in a statement.

"Several individuals took part in a concerted action with the common aim of taking the life of Luis Donaldo Colosio," Mr. Montes said

Evidence from videotapes and witnesses, "leads without doubt to the idea of a mutual and previous agreement to carry out the crime," he added.

The slaying of Mr. Colosio. who was virtually certain to become the next president of Mexico, plunged the Mexican political system into turmoil, threatened to undermine the economy and sparked widespread speculatinn about a possible political motive for

the murder. Mr. Colosio was shot in the

rough neighbourhood of the northern city of Tijuana, just over the U.S.-Mexican border from San Diego, March 23.

Apart from gunman Mario Aburto Martinez, who was arrested at the scene and according to authorities has confessed to the shooting, Mr. Montes said four other people including an organiser of Mr. Colosio's local security detail are under arrest.

Mr. Montes named the four as Tranquilino Sanchez, a locally hired member of the security team hired the day of the killing Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, a former policeman and a member of the local security team who was detained with Ahurto at the time

of the killing but later freed. Mayorai's son Rodolfo, also a member of the security team and Rodolfo Rivapalacio, who hired the previous three as part of a security detail to control crowds during Mr. Colosio's

campaign appearance.

Mr. Montes said videotapes and photographs of the assassination showed Mr. Sanchez and the two mayorals, along with two unidentified individuals, either helping Mr. Aburto approach Mr. Colosio, ret Service security officers from protecting him. Mr. Montes gave no motive

continuing and that he did not rule out the possibility that more people were involved in

tion of a possible second gunman despite media reports that Mr. Colosio may have been shot by two weapons of different calibres.

tive for the killing has ranged from involvement of drugtraffickers in the Tijuana region to a power struggle within the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), or an attack by local PRI members angered by the victory of the opposition National Action Party (PAN) in 1989 gubernatorial elections in the state of Baja California Norte while Mr. Colosio was PRI party

A group of 20 PRI legisla-tors, in a statement published Monday in Mexican newspaper, claimed that Mr. Colosio's assassination was a "political murder" now being exploited by bardliners inside the ruling

for the killing. He said investigations were

the conspiracy.
Mr. Montes made no men-

Speculation about the mo-

president.

party to block democratic reforms.

as the tomb-sweeping holiday when people traditionally pay The witness said that plain-

clothes and uniformed police surrounded the short young man as soon as he entered the vast square carrying a wreath. After he showed police a

witness said. Police in Beijing are extremely tense in advance of the fifth anniversary of the June 4. 1989 army crackdown in

Australian theatre company wins art award

age of 20.

BOGOTA (R) — An Australian theatre company has won a United Nations Arts Award for its performance at the capital city's International Theatre Festival, a statement released by the event's organisers said. The statement said the Handspan Theatre Company had won the Promotion of the Arts Award from the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO for its play Four Little Girls, at the IV Ibero-American Theatre Festival, which ended on April 3. It said the international jury sent by UNESCO to the festival chose the company's interpretation of a play written by the famous Spanish painter Pablo Picasso for its "technical perfection (and) high poetic and imaginative quality." The five-member jnry included French theatre director Jorge Lavelli. Actors, dancers, musicians and other artists from more than 25 countries participated in the 12-day festival, described by its organisers as the largest in South America.

Publicity Fund, and Lamont Gaston, president of an organisa-tion called Vietnow based in Rockford, Illinois, were in Vietnam for two weeks. Ms. Stewart and Mr. Gaston were

believed to be leaving with Mr. Hendon.

Peronists head for poll win

results of the investigation.

BUENOS AIRES (R) - The ruling Peronist Party is poised to sweep Argentina's April 10 election for a Constitutional Assembly, paving the way for Presideot Carlos Menem's re-election hid in 1995. Independent pollsters predict the Peronists — who have won every national vote since 1987 will carry most provinces, matching or even topping their 43 per cent showing in October's congressional election. Mr. Menem's chance to run for a second term is virtually guaranteed by a pact he signed with his predecessor, Radical Party Chairman Raul Alfonsin, to reform the National Charter, Peronist and Radical constitutional farmers are expected to take about two-thirds of the 305 seats in the assembly that will rewrite Argentina's hasic law this year.

Ramos names new military chief

MANILA (AP) - President Fidel Ramos Monday named the army commander, who negotiated an end to a military rebellion four years ago, as the new military chief of staff. Mr. Ramos nominated army Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile to succeed Gen. Lisandro Abadia, who will complete his three-year tour of duty this week. Gen. Enrile's nomination requires confirmation by the Congressional Commission on Appointments. Gen. Enrile, 53, graduated in 1962 from the Philippine Military Academy, where he served as superintendent from 1989 until his appointment as army chief in 1991. During a coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino in December 1989, Gen. Enrile represented her government in talks with mutinous troops, who later surrendered.

head and the abdomen after hlocking Mr. Colosio's path or preventing Mr. Colosio's Secgiving a campaign speech in a China probes 'new crimes' by top dissident

BEIJING (R) — China said Tuesday it was detaining the country's top dissident while police investigate him for "suspected new criminal offences" following his September parole after almost 15 years in prison.

"The Beijing Public Security Department has decided to investigate suspected new criminal offences by Wei Jingsheng," the official Xinhua News Agency said.
"Wei is being interrogated

and placed under surveillance by the Beijing Public Security Department in accordance with the law hecause he violated the law on many occasions and is suspected of having committed new crimes when he was deprived of his political rights and on parole," Xinhua said.

Mr. Wei, known as the father of China's Democracy Movement, was grabbed by police last Friday when attempting to return to Beijing from the nearby port city of

Tianiin. His disappearance into police custody seemed sure to further inflame the dehate over China's human-rights record, which Washington has said

must improve if the country is to maintain its preferential trading privileges with the United States.

Mr. Wei became a central figure in last month's acrimonious Beijing visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher after police de-tained him for 30 hours as part of a wider sweep against dissidents before Mr. Christopher

Most of the other activists rounded up were released after short periods in detention. Mr. Wei left Beijing for Tianjin, and his Friday attempt to return marked his first foray back to the capital.

Xinhua said Saturday that police had let Mr. Wei go after questioning him, but his family and associates said they had not beard from the dissident.

The Foreign Ministry said Monday Mr. Wei had violated the conditions of his September parole, when he was freed six months short of completing his 15-year sentence, and just before the international vote on Beijing's bid for the 2000

Mr. Wei's parole ended on March 29, but he is still subject to three years' deprivation of his "political rights," which strips him of freedom of speech and assembly as well as subjecting him to numerous other restrictions. The U.S. State Department

Friday issued a statement of regret at Mr. Wei's detention.
Mr. Wei is by far the most prominent of the handful of political dissidents remaining in China, and, since his release has remained uncowed by official warnings to stop seeing foreign reporters and diplomats and stop providing essays and articles to foreign publica-

The human-rights row between Beijing and Washington is growing increasingly touchy during the run-up to U.S. President Bill Clinton's June decision on extending China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade

Mr. Clinton last year made MFN renewal in 1994 conditional on human-rights improvements, a linkage Beijing

Diplomats say both sides are now struggling to find some common ground on the MFN

usue, with such international organisations as the World Bank saying any U.S. move to end MFN treatment for China would be a disaster for both countries.

In a separate development, a Chinese student who tried to lay flowers in Tiananmen Square, site of the 1989 prodemocracy protests crushed by the army, was taken away by armed police Tuesday, a witness said. Tuesday marks the Chinese

Festival of Qingming, known. respect to the dead.

was immediately put into a vehicle and driven away, the

Tiananmen Square in which hundreds if not thousands

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Nigeria face first tough challenge in cup semifinals

TUNIS (R) — Favourites Nigeria, who have sauntered to the semifinals, face their first real challenge in the African Nations Cup finals on Wednes-

The world cup finalists play defeoding champions Ivory Coast in the first of the day's semifinals at the El Menzah stadium in Tunis, followed by

Mali's meeting with Zambia. Nigeria, who have yet to be extended at the tournament and have reached the final four with the minimom of effort, will be forced to increase their workrate against an Ivorian team brimming with confi-

The ambitious Ivorians upset Ghana 2-1 in the quarterfinals oo Sunday after gambling with a three-man attack and say they intend to employ the same tactic against Nigeria.

"We are very coofident after our win over Ghana," said Captaio Serge-Alain Maguy, a survivor of the team that was beaten 4-1 by Nigeria in last year's World Cup qualifiers. "We are out to avenge our defeat in Lagos," he added.

SOCCER

Nigeria, who have scored five goals in the competition and kept three clean sheets. will again be relying on the attacking prowess of giant striker Richidi Yekini.

His four goals in the competition make him joint top scorer with Ivorian striker Joel Tiehi, whio is doubtful for Wednesday's match after pulling a muscle against Ghana. Tournament outsiders Mali hope to continue their giantkilling run, which has already claimed the scalps of Tunisia and Egypt, against the Zam-

"We oever believed we would get this far but now that we are in the semifinals we intend going all the way to the final," said goalkeeper and captain Ousmane Farota.

Zambia, another unfancied team, have already achieved their pre-tournament aim of a place in the semifinals, despite some mediocre performances. "We have oot been playing well," said Swiss-based winger Jonson Bwalya. "But we hope to change that in the semifin-

The team face the possibility of playing uncapped goalkeeper Martin Mwamba in place of James phiri, who suffered an ankle injury and was battling to be fit for the semifinals.

Fame and fiasco at the **Aintree Grand National**

LONDON (R) — Of all the horse races in all the world, the Grand National was least in need of the great 1993 fiasco. The catalogue of disaster which infolded at Aintree that day fell upon a race already over-endowed with tradition

and drama. Last year's farce which resulted in the event being declared void added fresh, unwanted dimensions as the world witnessed from its armchair the mother of all foul-ups.

Now, after a series of major modifications, race officials are confident all will be well on Saturday. Captain Becher can sleep easy in his grave once

It was the bold captain wbo fell at the brook in 1839 on the first running of the race, won. appropriately, by a horse cal-

led Lottery. Becher's brook has become probably the world's most well-known jumping obstacle. Although less formidable than it ușed to be, it still provides an exciting spectacle as up to 40 horses pour over.

Other fences, such as the chair. Valentine's brook and turn, are all part of the Aintree folklore.

Then there are the borses: Golden Miller who in 1934 became the only horse to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National in the same scason — a feat French-trained favourite the Fellow seeks to equal oo Saturday.

Sheila's Cottage, the 1948 wincer, who repaid jockey Arthur Thompson by hiting off his finger.

Devoo Loch, who in 1956 went sprawling to defeat in the final 300 metres after victory had seemed assured with all Britain cheering him on behalf of his owner, the mother of the nation's queco.

Foinavon, the winner in 1967, who was so far behind he avoided the worst pile-up ever at the 23rd fence, galloping to a shock 100-1 success

Red Rom, a record threetimes winner in the 1970s. An average performer elsewhere, Red Rum seemed to sprout wings over the 30 national

Aldaniti, who in 1981 recovered from severe fitness setbacks to carry to victory jockey Bob Champion, who had fooght a successful battle

against cancer.
Jockeys love it. There is no place quite like Aintree to set the cerves jingling.

The odds are you will probably fall or fail to complete.

but the joy of winning is one of sport's supreme moments. Harry Wragg, who later turned trainer, was only 17 when he rode Battleship to

victory in 1938. At the other end of the scale, Dick Saunders woo the 1982 national on Grittar at the

age of 48. For sheer agony it's hard to beat the Devon Loch drama, an afternoon still etched in the mind of the horse's jockey that day, Dick Francis — now a highly successful thriller wri-

Son of War outstays favourites in Irish National

DUBLIN (R) - Son of War stormed through the mud to beat of the more fancied runners and win the Irish Grand National

at Fairyhouse on Monday. The 12-1 chance, ridden by Frank Woods, forged ahead after the final jump as the front-running Nuaffe stopped to almost a walk in the desperate conditions before finishing

The heavily-backed favourite High Peak (9-4) was never in the running at any stage and was eventually pulled up.

Of the other fancied mounts, Belvederian fell at the sixth

from home and Deep Bramble was also pulled op. Son of War provided trainer Peter McCreery with the biggest success of his career. His late father, also Peter,

trained the 1985 runner-np Seskin Bridge.

It was also a case of like father like son for winning rider Woods whose father Paddy was victorious in 1963.

GOREN BRIDGE

volnerable. West ↑ A 10 2 ·· £98763 985 \$763 V92 010982 AQJ10 SOUTH

#J4 VAKQJ1075 OAQS

attempt to land your four-heart con-tract after West led the king of spades? Incidentally, which finesse are we talking about?

Note East's raise to two spades, despite only three-card support. With only one side-suit stopped and a weak doubleton in the bargain, a response of one no trump was out of the question. Nothing the oppo-nents did could talk South out of

ONE HIGH CARD TOO MANY

making the value hid.

West led the king of spedes and declarer could count nine sure tricks—seven rumps and the aces of spades and diamonds. One meth-od of trying for a 10th trick would be to take the diamond finesse. However, that stands less than a 50 percent chance of success, since East is marked with a high club by the opening lead (with both the ace and king West would surely have led a club rather than a spade). Declarer looked around for something better. An almost sure-fire method pre-

An almost cure-fire method pre-sented itself right at the opening gun. Declarer followed low from dummy to the first trick, then got rid of an embarrassing card from hand—the jack of spades! No mat-ter what the defenders did, declarer would eventually win, draw trumps and then take the marked finesse of the ten of spades for the fulfilling

The contract will fail if South does not unblock the jack of species does not unblock the jack of spedes at trick one. If declarer retains that card, a finesse for the queen of spedes can still be taken successful-ly, but as long as West does not cover declarer will be locked in hand with no way to get to the table to cash the see of spedes.

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Al Faisali again assured of top spot

By Alcen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - As the Kingdom's first division soccer championship nears its end. the picture is finally getting elearer and most teams already have a good idea about their place in the 12 team standings.

Trileholders Al Faisali can now officially begin celebrating their second successive year atop Jordanian soccer following their 2-0 victory over Al Baqua in one of the postponed matches of the 19th week. The win gave Al Faisali 48 points in the overall standings — a feat eveo Al Wihdat or Al Hussein cannot match even if they win all their remaining matches.

Al Faisali still have three matches before the competition concludes April 22. They have so far maintained the best scoring record (41-10) and have only lost one match - 1-0 to Al Hussein.

The 1993 title will be Al Faisali's eighth during the past 13 seasons. They also clinched the title in 1983, '85, '86, '88, '89, '90 and '92.

The loss kept Al Baqaa in eighth place for oow as they could not keep op with the league leaders and only tried to minimise their striking

Al Faisali's star Jiryes Tadros scored his team's first goal from a header in the 35th minute. Despite rough play which the referee sometimes chose to overlook, Al Faisali seemed intent not to let anything spoil their day as Khaled Awad petted in the second goal in the 59th mi-

In the other postponed match, Al Hussein jumped to third place after crushing Al Yarmonk 4-1 who thus lost hope of a place in the first Al Hussein, now fighting with Al Wildat and Al Ahli for second place seemed determined to advance their standing as they took total control early on in the match

at Al Salt stadium. Munib Gharaibeh opened the score in the 15th minute, followed by a second goal by Ayman Nasri in the 28th mi-

Khaled Khatatbeh ended the first half 3-0 when he scored Al Hussein's third goal in the 43th minute.

Khatatbeh again scored in the 78th minute before Al Yarmouk's Abdol Fattah Abbadi netted in his team's sole goal from a corner kick in the 80th minute. Al Yarmook thus re-

mained in last place with 17 points and the worst scoring record (19-40). The upcoming 20th week

of action will be quite decisive for teams vying for runner up position, and particularly for the last four, struggling to avoid relegation.

Al Arabi plays Al Fubeis Wednesday in a vital match for both teams who are now in 9th and 10th places. Al Arabi have 27 poiots in the standings after their 1-0 wio over Al Ramtha last week. Their recent 2-2 and 3-3 draws with Al Wihdat and Al Qadissieb have enabled them to draw with Al Baqua in overall points. Therefore a win would greatly benefit their plight and put Al Baqaa and Al Jazireh io a difficult

Meanwhile it is not clear if Al Fuheis, who threatened to pall out of the competition following their loss to Al Wihdat last week, will play the rest of their matches. Al Fuheis lodged a complaint with the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) citing that the penalty which gave Al Wihdat a 2-1 wio last week was unwarranted, while the

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referee had failed to award them a penalty on a more

serious and clear tackle. The JSF has rejected any possible altering of the result, but promised to follow up the complaint with the match's referees.

If Al Fuheis carry out their threat of pulling out, all their results in the competition will be cancelled and they will antomatically be relegated and fined ID 5,000. On Thursday, Al Yarmouk take on Al Faisali in a match

that is unlikely to change anything for both teams. Bottom of the league Al Yarmouk have become the first team to officially hid the first division farewell after three big defeats: 42 to Al Fuheis, 5-0 to Al Ahli and 4-1

to Al Hussein. In another match, Al Qadissieh, who have maintained the best record with only one loss in the second leg of the competition, will meet Al Ramtha who seem to be content with a halfway

standing in the league. Al Ramtha have had a series of disappointing re-sults, losing 1-0 to Al Arabi, 3-1 to Al Wibdat and Al

Most onlookers contend that Al Ramtha should be happy with keeping their place among the top teams this season especially after many top players deserted the team because of differences with the club's manage-

On Friday, Sahab will take on Al Hussein at Mafraq stadium. A win will give third placed Al Hussein a big boost as they strive to capture second place. Meanwhile, Sahah are expected to give all

consecutive matches to Al Ahli, Al Ramtha and Fuheis. Amman's international stadium will witness the most heated clash between second placed Al Wihdat and fourth

they have got to move from

11th place where they have been stuck after losing three

placed Al Ahli. Al Wihdat have only lost four matches this season. Their latest 2-1 and 3-1 victories over Al Fuheis and Al Ramtha enabled them to hold on to their advanced

position with 37 points. Meanwhile, Al Ahli, who maintained second place throughout most of the sea-

son, dropped after some unexpected results and are now. in fourth place after losing to Sahah 3-1 last week.

Al Jazireh und Al Baqua, who were both in real danger of relegation earlier in the competition have maintained 7th and 8th places for now after impressive comebacks in the past weeks.

As they clash in the last match of the week, Af Jazireh will strive to continue their record after beating Al Qadissieh 3-2, Al Ahli 2-1 and drawing with Al Faisali and Al Hussein I-1. Al Baqua also impressed fans after their 2-0 upset of Al Hussein. Together with Al Oadissieh. they have become the surprise team of the second legin which they beat Al Fuheis 2-0, Al Ramtha 4-2, Al Arabi 1-0 and drew with Al Wihdat 1-1 and Al Ahli 0-0.

STANDINGS AFTER 20TH WEEK

Team	P	W.	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Faisali	19	14	2	2	1	41	10	48
Wibdat	19	9	4	2	4	22	17	37
Hussein	19.	8	5	2	4	28	17	36
Ahli	19	8	4	1	6	29	20	33
Qadissieh	19	6	5	3	5	29	23	31
Ramtha	19	8	2	1	8	29	25	29
Jazireb	19	4	g		7	24	26	28
Baqaa	19	7	2	2	8	18	27	27
Arabi	19	5	6		8	24	35	27
Fuhels	19	6	1	1	11	17	32	21
Sahah	19	4	3	2	10	19	27	20
Yarmouk	19	5	_	2	12	19	40	17



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O A D T	DEAD AGAIN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Olivier Gruner IN NEMESIS Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Hook Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Demolition Man Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Opening Scon A political comedy Forbidden × Forbidden	Two more weeks before the per- formances of the political comedy "Ahlan Arab Summit Conference"	The theatre reopens Wednesday April 6 To present the last two weeks of a play: "Ahlan (welcome) Arab Summit Conference" The theatre is closed Saturdays and Sundays

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan detains Mahdi — opposition

CAIRO (R) — Sudanese intelligence services detained former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi for questioning on Tuesday, his opposition Umma Party said in a statement. "At noon today a security force led by Captain Hassan Mohammad Ahmad Kheiri came to the house of Mr. Sadeq Al Mahdi and told him to come to security headquarters without stating any reason," said senior party official Mnbarak Al Mahdi. It was the fourth time the Oxford-educated Mahdi, 57, has been detained in the past year. Previously, he has heen released after a few hours questioning.

Berlusconi suspends government talks

MILAN (R) — Media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi said on Tuesday he had suspended talks with his Northern League election allies on forming a new government in Italy. He said he had cancelled a meeting with League officials due to be held on Wednesday. Mr. Berlusconi told reporters he would wait for President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to nominate a prime minister before offering to form a government. Mr. Berlusconi's decision comes after heated arguments with Northern League leader Umberto Bossi, one of his allies in the right-wing Freedom Alliance that won last week's election, over who should head the next government.

Qatar's parliament chief in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's parliament speaker. All Akbar Nateq-Nouri, said Tuesday that Qatar was a trusted friend of Tehran's and a partner in some key projects, Tehran Radio reported. Mr. Nateq-Nouri said he would discuss economic and political issues with Ali Ben Khalifa Al Hitmi, chairman of Qatar's Advisory Council, a sort of parliament, who arrived in Tehran for an official visit Tuesday. "Our relations with Qatar are very close, warm and ancient," Mr. Nateq-Nouri told the radio. He said issues to be discussed with Mr. Hitmi included a proposed project to pipe fresh water to Qatar and a massive shared gas field in the Gulf.

Iranian dally dismisses U.S. charges

NICOSIA (AP) — A state-run Iranian daily on Tuesday dismissed U.S. accusations that Iran was not cooperating to combat the international trade in drugs. "Dozens of Iranian security forces are being killed or injured hy drug smugglers every week and the country is overstretching its financial resources in trying to cut the flow of drugs through its territory," the English-language Tehran Times said. The paper said Washington was using the issue as a ruse to "single cut the countries that are opposed to its policies for chastisement." In an annual U.S. review of global cooperation against drugs issued Friday, President Clinton accused Iran, Syria, Nigeria and Burma of not helping in international anti-drug efforts. The finding bars the four countries from U.S. foreign aid and U.S. support for loans from international lending institutions.

Wall Street stocks soar, draw bargain hunters

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street stocks soared Tuesday as a steep drop in interest rates unleashed a flood of buy orders, with investors looking for bargains after the market's recent fall. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 82.06 points, or 2.3 per cent, at 3,675.41, based on early and unofficial data. In the broader market, advancing issues beat out declines by a huge 7-to-1 margin on active trading of more than 360 million shairs on the NEW York Stock Exchange. The NASDAQ index was up a shair 22.62 points — more than three per cent — at 750.03 (see earlier story inside).

Local bank signs deal with Palestine bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman investment Bank (AIB) Ltd. Tuesday signed a memorandum under which terms the two banks will operate as corresponding banks of each other, AIB director general Maher Shukri announced. Mr. Shukri said the memorandum, which he and Palestine Bank Director General Hashem Al Shawwa, signed, aims to promote economic integration between Jordan and the occupied lands through giving Jordan a distinguished role in investments in the Palestinian economy. "We seek to mix between the Jordanian and Palestinian capital," said Mr. Shukri, pointing that the Palestine Bank and the Amman Investment Bank had a common interest.

Aharon Remez, first air force commander, died at 75

TEL AVIV (AP) — Major General Aharon Remez, the first commander of Israel's air force, died after a long illness, Israeli newspapers reported Monday. Remez also served as a legislator for the Labour Party, as minister of transport and as ambassador to Britain in a long public service career. Remez died Sunday and was huried on Monday at Jerusalem's military cemetery with full military honours. He was eulogised by one of his successors in the air force command post, President Ezer Weizman.

Tunisia, Algeria say no to fundamentalism

TUNIS (R) — The presidents of Tunisia and Algeria said on Monday they agreed their countries should take the path of democracy but they opposed what they called Islamic fanaticism. The announcement by Tunisia's Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and Algeria's Liamine Zeroual came at the end of a two-day visit to Tunis by Mr. Zeroual, his first since he took office two months ago. "The two presidents reiterated their constant commitment to their two countries' move on the way of democracy, pluralism and promoting human rights.

Iran attends pipeline talks in Turkmenistan

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh is in Turkmenistan for talks on huilding an oil pipeline from the former Soviet republie through Iran and Turkey to Europe, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said the meeting in Ashkhabad will be attended by oil and energy ministers from Iran, Turkey, Russia, Uzbekistan. Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan as well as some European ambassadors. It did not give further details. Tehran Radio had said in March that Iran and Turkmenistan had agreed to study building an oil pipeline from Turkmenistan to Tebran with a capacity of 80,000 to 140,000 barrels per day and to set up a joint committee to study the project. It said the pipeline, proposed by Turkmenistan, would extend to Tehran's oil refinery via Sari, a city 180 kilometres northeast of Tehran and about the same distance from the Turkman border. Turkmenistan wants to pump between 80,000 and 140,000 bpd through the pipeline, the radio added.

U.S. ambassador visits Maronite patriarch

BEIRUT (AP) - Beleaguered Christians took heart from an unprecedented Easter visit by the U.S. ambassador to the seat of the Maronite Catholic church, newspapers reported Tuesday. They viewed Ambassador Mark Hambley's trip to the mountain, op church at Bkirki Monday as a show of support by the Clinton administration to Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir. spiritual head of the one million Maronites. The visit came two days after Patriarch Sfeir launched a scathing attack on the Lebanese government, accusing it of ignoring a reconciliation agreement that ended the 1975-90 war between Christians and Muslims and for favouring Muslims in public jobs. His Easter message came after a month-long army crackdown on rightwing Christians, whom the government holds responsible for a Feb. 27 Maronite church bombing that killed 10 worshippers. He complained about the "imbalance in distributing the roles" by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's half-Christian, half Muslim government.

Yemeni rivals trade charges

SANAA (Agencies) — Political rivals in Yemen traded charges on Tuesday about who was to blame for the failure of reconciliation talks in Oman meant to avert a slide towards civil war.

Western diplomats expected Yemenis to step away from the brink because, they argued, civil war would be disastrous for the impoverished country which only last year appeared heading for economic takeoff.

But their optimism was not shared by many Yemenis as a war of words heated up between President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of his sonthern rival and vice-president, Ali Salem Al Beidh.

The beleaguered currency, the riyal, fell to 65 to the U.S. dollar on news of the failure of talks between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh at the Omani resort of Salalah on Monday, raising the spectre of a Somali-type conflict that would tear the

country apart.

It had earlier risen to 55 riyals to the dollar when the two men, who fell out in a power struggle eight months ago, agreed to meet at the invitation of Oman's influential Sultan Qaboos.

President Saleh on Tuesday wound up two days of talks in Oatar.

Mr. Saleh said in a departure statement in Doha that he briefed the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, on "the effort made to contain the political crisis there (in Yemen) and move ahead with implementation of the national reconciliation accord without delay or hesitation."

Mr. Saleh arrived Monday

from Oman.
Oman's foreign minister,
Yousef Ben Alawi, said that
Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh
agreed on some principles to
end their eight-month old tift,
but could not agree on a joint

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Beidh's party issued a statement in Aden, accusing northern forces of assassinating Ahmad Khaled Seif, whom it described as a prominent member of the party, in Taiz, 200

kilometres north of Sanaa.

The statement quoted witnesses as saying he was shot Monday afternoon by gunmen in a speeding car. He was the 153rd victim of the north's terrorist plot against the Socialist Party," the statement

In Oman, Mr. Ben Alawi said his country would consult with Jordan about pulling out joint military observers, instalied to keep the troops apart following the clashes.

Diplomats in Yemen, who did not want to be named, said a pan-Arah peacekeeping force under the auspices of the Arah League was under discussion to avert a civil war until reforms were in place.



LOOSENING THE CHAINS: Israeli soldiers load an armoured baif-track on a semi-trailer as they evacuate the Israeli army headquarters in Gaza City in the occupied Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Israel continued a partial pullout from the

Gaza Strip and Jericho ahead of handing over partial authority to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sometime this month (AFP photo)

Guests file claims for 'missing' valuables in Amman hotel blaze

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least four guests have filed complaints that someone had spirited away cash and valuables from their abandoned rooms during a hiaze at Amman's Forte Grand Hotel, hotel officials and one British tourist said

The deputy general manager of Forte Grand, Ammar Kanaan, said the hotel carried insurance and the claims of theft and other losses of guests would be promptly dealt with.

would be promptly dealt with.

"We accept all claims of the guests at face value and process them," Mr. Kanaan told the Jordan Times. "We have received some claims and they will be looked into through the proper channels."

Patrick Mccafferty, a Briton who was occupying a third-ficel lösth at the liotel during the fire which broke out around 5.30 a.m. on Monday and was brought under control in about an bour, said he had lost his wallet which he had inadvertently left behind as he and his wife fled their room.

"Strangely enough, my wife's jewelry, which was left on the dressing table near the bed, was not touched, but my wallet, which was near the door, was missing when we returned to the room around 8.30 a.m.," Mr. McCafferty told the Jordan Times in a telphone interview from

According to Mr. Mccafferty, who operates a London-based shipping husiness, "several others" in his tour group of 28 people and at least another guest had similar experiences. "Some lost cash and others lost gold and jewelry," he said.

Others who have reportedly filed elaims and an Iraqi woman, who friends said had lost all her jewelry and cash,

were not available for immediate comment to the Jordan

Times.

The hotel had about 240 guests at the time of the blaze, but no serious casualties were reported as a direct cause of the fire. One Italian guest died of a heart attack as he was rushing out of the hotel and I1 others suffered light injuries and smoke inhalation, according to officials.

According to the officials and hotel executives, primary investigations have not found any indication of foul play and that the fire could have been started by a burning cigarette butt or electrical fault.

Charles Barker, the hotel's general manager, said Monday initial inquries had shown that the fire was caused by a hurning cigarette carelessly tossed on the carrier

on the carpet.

It was the second fire at a major Amman hotel in two years. In March 1992, a fairty electric circuit caused a fire at the Inter-Continental Hotel, killing an Iraqi businessman who was caught in a stalled elevator.

In December 1994, a hiaze at the Safeway Department Store, also blamed on a faulty circuit, injured more than 300

Mr. Kanaan, the Forte Grand executive, said the botel was asking all those who might have lost valuables and cash in the fire or the ensuing panie to make a formal claim. But he declined to discuss whether the hotel suspected anyone of having taken advantage of the melee to pocket valuables in the guest rooms.

Mustafa Noureddin, a retired police officer who is now security chief of Forte Grand, said security forces and hotel staff sealed off the premises immediately after the hlaze started and it was "impossible for any unauthorised person to have entered the hotel."

"We are launching a thorough investigations into the charges," said Mr. Noureddin. In the meantime, he said, the botel stood ready to extend help in securing police certificates which are essential for those who want to replace missing driving licences and, in some cases, credit cards.

At least three of the complained came from guests who occupied the third floor of the eight-storey hotel and another came from a guest who had a second-floor room.

Other complaints were settled when hotel security staff conducted thorough searches of the rooms after their occupants complained of "thefts." "In most cases we found that the missing items were very

much in the rooms and all it needed was a close search," he said. "People tend to forget things and scramble things around in panic, particularly in situations of fire."

An official at the Civil Defence Department (CDD) who identified himself only as the assistance duty officer said CDD personnel were not concerned with security-related matters while fighting fires. "Our job is fight first, rescue

people and provide ambulance services," the officer told the Jordan Times. "We do our job, and leave it to the police department to take care of security."

No immediate comment was available from the police department.

Mr. Mecafferty, who declined to discuss the contents of his missing wallet except that it contained his driving licence and credit cards, said none of his tour group had allowed the fire or the loss of valuables to disrupt their trip. "Such incidents could hap-

"Such incidents could happen anywhere, and we are not going to allow such things to disrupt our vacation," he said. "We are enjoying the traditional Jordanian hospitality and warmth."

Assad concludes visit to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assed returned home on Tuesday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, apparently fretting that quick progress, on Palestinian self-rule has eclipsed Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Assad left without any

Mr. Assad left without any public statement. Syrian and Egyptian officials declined all comment on what the two men had discussed during meetings which lasted close to six hours. But Mr. Mubarak, who has

But Mr. Mubarak, who has played a key role in rehabilitating Syria internationally by coaxing it into the peace process, hinted that February's Hebron messare and Israel's subsequent preoccupation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left Mr. Assad feeling out in the cold.

"I want to say we talked about peace. After the summit between President Assad and (U.S.) President (Bill) Clinton there was great hope, if only the Hebron incident had not happened," he told reporters at Cairo airport

"It was this which obstructed and confused the peace process." he added.

Arah diplomats say that Syria feels the PLO-Israel deal has severely harmed the Arabs because it satisfies Israeli demands at the expense of the Palestinians.

Two months ago, Mr. Assad was basking in the apparent certainty that his new post cold war strategy for Syria had paid off. Not only did he meet Mr. Clinton in Geneva but the U.S. president did some diplomatic spade work for him, assuring the world that Mr. Assad's guarded words were offering Israel normalised ties.

israel normansed ues.

Israel was courting Damascus, for decades its arch-foe, as the Palestinian self-rule agreement that had enraged Mr. Assad missed a December deadline for the start of Israeli withdrawal and see med headed for long stagnation.

Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein changed all that when he slaughtered dozens of Arabs in

Hebron on Feb. 25 and put the PLO-Israel deal in jeopardy.
Mr. Assad has also learnt, the painful way, that rapprochement with Washington only goes so far.

Official Syrian media screamed foul last week when the Clinton administration kept Damascus on a list of countries allegedly involved in the international drugs trade, saying the move was politically

Some State Department officials argued for taking Syria off the list but were overruled. Damascus also remains on a list of countries the United States considers sponsor "terrorism".

Mr. Mubarak said the two men did not touch the drugs issue but focussed on peace: "I hope God willing the peace talks will resume and there will be peace this year without any delay."

U.S.: cocaine now truly global scourge

WASHINGTON (R) - The

United States said that rampant cocaine use has become a global scourge, undermining and corrupting governments and destroying lives almost everywhere. In its report to Congress on the international narcotics trade in 1993, the State Department said heroin production and trafficking was also increasing, opening new marketing opportunities for international criminals. Still, craek cocaine, which first flooded the streets of U.S. cities in the 1980s, remained . the number one threat, spreading its poison ever wider, the department said in its annual roundup on the international narcotie trade. "Rampant cocaine use, which was once a peenliarly American phenomena, is now a worldwide scourge," the report said. "From Spain to Russia to Vietnam and Zimbabwe, the 'white poison of the Andes' has surfaced as a potential threat to countries unprepared to deal with a new drugs epidemic."
The report alleged that drug corruption had infected officials and institutions in a long list of countries, including Bolivia, Burma, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Panama, Syria, Thailand, Venezuela and Zambia. The Panamanian government, brought to power by the 1989 U.S. invasion that ousted strongman and convicted drug traffieker Mannel Noriega, "continued to show a disappointing lack of political will to address drug corruption and money laundering concerns," the report said.

Bhutto visits father's grave

LARKANA, Pakistan (R) -Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, ignoring a bitter family fend, visited the grave of ber father Zulfikar Ali Phutto on the 15th anniversary of the ex-premier's execution.
The prime minister's estranged mother, Nusrat Bhutto, chose not to visit the grave for the first time since her husband was hanged by military President Mohammad Zia-Ul-Hao. Benazir's hrother Murtaza was not allowed out of jail for the anniversary. "Zulfikar Ali Bhntto is alive in the hearts of the people of Pakistan," the prime minister told a rally of admirers of her father, toppled by General Zia in a military coup in 1977 and executed two years later. "After 17 years they have not been able to end Bhuttoism," Ms. Bhutto said of her political opponents. "It will not end until poverty ends in Pakistan." Ms. Bhutto strewed rose petals on her father's grave in his tiny ancestral village of Naudero and raised her hands in prayer inside the heavily guarded family ? burial ground. She said she planned to build a memorial to her father in the povertystricken village at a cost of 280 million rupees (\$9.3 million). She did not say where the money would come from.

Police re-examine suicide of U.K. peer's wife

LONDON (R) - British

police reopened an investiga-tion into the last hours of the wife of a government minister, whose death was recorded by an inquest as suicide. Lord Caithness, 45, stepped down as junior transport minister the day after his wife died from shotgun wounds in the mouth in the family home pear Oxford, west of London, in January, her husband and daughter were downstairs playing cards. according to evidence given at the inquest. Lady Caithness's family put pressure on police to re-examine the case based on evidence suggesting a difference of three hours between the time of the shooting given by her husband and two witnesses. "As a result of some concerns raised by members of the family, police are carrying ont a review of some issues which did not come out in the inquest," detective Tom Morrison said. Lord Caithness told the inquest in January that his wife Diana was upset about her health and had threatened suicide many times before. He said he last saw her alive at 6:20 p.m. on Jan. 8. But a neighbour said she heard a loud bang that sounded like a gunshot at 3 p.m. a doctor said he was called at 6 p.m. and arrived half and hour later at the couple's home. He said Lady Caithness appeared to have been dead for three

Returnees have conflicting agendas, or none at all

at the helm of the PLO.

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The 26 Palestinian expellees who crossed the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank on Tuesday took with them, by their own admission, conflicting agendas that epitomise the divisions in the Palestinian ranks. If Tayseer Arouri, a professor of political science, was going back with the avowed aim of huilding Palestinian grassroots support for reforms in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Marwan Barghouti, a student leader, went back with a determination to shore up the waning support for Fatch among the two million Palestinians in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip.

Needless to say, support for Fatch, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's powerbase in the PLO, translates into support for the Sept. 13 autonomy accord signed by the PLO and Israel as the first hreakthrough in decades of efforts to make Israeli-Arah peace.

Dr. Arouri was a teacher at the same university, Bir Zeit, where Mr. Barghouti was a student leader. The professor, 48, was expelled in Angust 1989, nearly two years into the Palestinian intifada, while Mr. Barghouti, 34, was expelled in May 1987, a few months hefore the anti-

occupation revolt began.

They found themselves on the same side of the fence hving as exiles in Jordan until Israel gave them permission to return home. Sharing the same convoy on their way back home and a yearning for a free Palestine is about all the two had in common as their huses squeaked the rickety hridge across the River Jordan.

Although there is little personal animosity between the two, their conflicting paths are bound to cross as they pick up from where they left off when they were expelled and seek to achieve their political objectives.

"The main item on my political agenda is to work for a democratic Palestine," said Dr. Arouri shortly before he left.

The professor is a leading activist of the Palestine People's Party (PPP) which is campaigning for reforms in the PLO and dramatic changes in the way Chairman and Fateh boss Arafat is bandling PLO decision-making. He said he was planning to enlist himself with Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, former head of the Palestinian peace negotiating team.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, a re-

spected Gaza physician, is

spearheading calls from

Palestinians in the occupied

territories for power-sharing

While personally not opposing Mr. Arafat, Dr. Abdul Shafi has been insisting that the future of the Palestinian entity could only be secure if the PLO leadership turned more democratic.

But Mr. Barghouti's immediate priorities are different and the priorities are different.

But Mr. Barghout's immediate priorities are different. "No doubt the return of people like me, along with other Fateb activists, will contribute strongly to building up support for Fateh in Palestine," said Mr. Barghouti in an implicit reference to the fact that most of the nearly 50 Palestinians that Israel allowed in its latest "goodwill gesture" were members of Fateh.

The former student leader denied that there were deep divisions in Fateh ranks in the occupied territories resulting from what many Palestinians see as shortcomings in the autonomy accord and the concessions that the PLO had been making in the run-up to the implementation of the agreement.

"There is no basic split in Fateb," asserted Mr. Barghouti. "There may be differences in approaches in how to carry out resistance against the occupation, hat those differences are technical and shortlived."

At least six of the young returnees spent their time in exile mostly in Tunis, working with the various PLO institutions. All are known activists of Fatch. Israel, ever ready to exploit differences among the

Israel, ever ready to exploit differences among the Palestinians, appears to have given priority to ensuring that a handful of Palestinians who oppose Mr. Arafat's policy were among those allowed to return home.

According to bigblyinformed diplomatic sources, Israeli officials had consulted prominent independent Palestinians from the occupied territories hefore approving the list or lists of expellees allowed to return home.

The sources said Hanan

Asbrawi, who served as spokesperson for the Palestiman delegation to peace talks which was eclipsed by the sudden revelation of the secretly worked out Israel-PLO autonomy accord, and Dr. Abdul Shafi were among those consulted.

"The Israeli idea appears to be aimed at ensuring that Arafat remains on his toes by having to respond to calls for democratic reforms in the PLO coming from Palestinians in the occupied territories." said one of the sources.

ies," said one of the sources.
"Obviously, having people like Dr. Arouri and others who have become closely familiar with the workings of the PLO and Arafat's way of handling things in the occu-

pied territories is one way of indirectly ensuring that momentum is maintained for the reformist movement," added the source.

added the source.

Canght in between Arafat loyalists and reformists are the bundreds of non-political village elders expelled by Israel during the early 1970s. Very few of them have any inclination to indulge in politics back at home.

At least eight of those who went back Tuesday are elderly men whose priorities in life have more to do with their families, children and grand-children and old friends than jumping to the political bandwagon.

"All I want is back to be with my family, my grand-children whom I have not seen at all," said Rashid Tawabteh, 93, who was expelled in 1971 and bived in Amman since then. "I want nothing to do with politics; I'm too old for that."

Mr. Tawabteh's wife Jazia, now 73, stayed with him for six to eight months every year before returning their home in Beit Fajjar outside Bethlehem to renew her Israelissued documents. That was the only way the couple could be together.

be together.

"Thank God, our ordeal has ended," said Jazia with a toothless but captivating smile. "We want nothing to do with politics. All we want is a life in tranquility."

مِلَدًا عند المأمِل